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Diary Dates

1990

March 13
The Foundation Lecture. Dr Roy Porter.
"Manufacturing Drugs in the Early Consumer Society: The Case of Corbyns;;.

April 21-22
The Spring Conference.
Details circulated. Note new venue: New Bath Hotel, New Bath Road, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3PX.

May 2
Dr Melvin Earles
"Working Towards a Reformation: The London Pharmacopoeia, 1738-1746".

September 12
British Pharmaceutical Conference, Cardiff.

Another from Merrell

"Caricatures and Comments" is the latest title of a publication from Merrell Dow in their Heritage of Pharmacy series. Prepared by Dr J Burnby it adopts the standards of presentation similar to the earlier publications written by Leslie G Matthews. Dr Burnby has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Congratulations

...To Prof. D L Cowen who has been honoured by Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA by the founding of the David L Cowen Annual Lecture. Prof. Cowen is an honorary member of BSHP.

...To Leslie G Matthews who has contributed an article on Apothecary Pill Slabs in the *Antique Collector* December 1989.

An Appeal

The Museum of the the Royal Pharmaceutical Society is preparing for publication a catalogue of prescription envelopes. The Museum Officer has appealed to readers of *The Ephemerist* (December 1989) for "further information ... or any other substantial collections in this field."

American Publications

Two recent publications of the National Library of Medicine. The first, Katherine Boyd's *Medicine and the Naturalist Tradition* is a brochure accompanying an exhibit presented in the Library. The second, Elizabeth Tunis' *Early Western Manuscripts in the National Library of Medicine: A Short-Title List* is an inventory of medieval and 16th century manuscripts in the Library. Single copies of both may be obtained without charge by writing to Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD 20894.

Obituary

Many members will have been saddened to learn of the death on January 5th of Mr G A Hutton, of Hawthorne House, Hatfield, Doncaster. Mr Hutton, the father of Ann Hutton a past president of BSHP was for many years a great supporter and member of BSHP. Our sympathy goes to Mrs Hutton, Ann and her sister Jean.

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The Bloomsbury Dispensary – Then and Now

By Rev. Gordon C. Taylor

In January 1949, when I was first instituted as Rector of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, the area had many flattened bomb sites, many decaying old tenement houses (inhabited by some wonderful cockney characters who had been born in Bloomsbury) and four or five West End theatres – the Shaftesbury, the Ambassadors, the St. Martin's, the Cambridge and the Phoenix (in Charing Cross Road). The area seemed to have little life except in Shaftesbury Avenue which went through it diagonally, but it suffered greatly from parking, which clogged most streets, and the Covent Garden fruit and vegetable lorries came right up to High Holborn as they loaded and unloaded. There was still an unyielding "village feel" everywhere, in which a traditional parson's job was to be done.

Thus I became the 29th Rector of St. Giles since the death of Henry VIII in 1547, and was really Rector of Bloomsbury (being at the Mother Church, though I naturally used the more ancient title of St. Giles-in-the-Fields which went back to a leper hospital founded by a Queen in 1101. I began on a very cold Sunday afternoon in the presence of a mere handful of people. My predecessor had died 8 months before, after a very long illness, and I found it hard to respond to those who declared the parish was "finished". I suppose the widespread bomb damage caused that superficial judgement, but then there was obviously much rebuilding to follow. I spent my first days as a Rector finding out about my many responsibilities, which seemed to grow by the hour. It was clear I had an historic inheritance, with much from the 17th Century or earlier. I soon discovered I was automatically a trustee of 6 or 7 ancient charities, including an almshouse, and these served the provision of children's education, children's clothing, pensions and even medical assistance. I was not merely a trustee, but the first-named trustee and, by custom, the chairman of many.

From the very beginning of my time, mention of the existence of the Bloomsbury Dispensary intrigued me most, after the 300 years old Almshouses, which were provided for by an ancient public house, the Bell Inn of Rainham in Essex, which had been bequeathed to the poor of the parish as far back as 1617. I was told the Dispensary had a temporary address of 5 Bloomsbury Street, just south of Bedford Square, so I went to see it. It was a rather handsome Georgian style corner shop, which still stands today, though it is now occupied by an upmarket hairdresser. I was told these premises were opposite the large and handsome old Dispensary which had been bombed out of existence in the London Blitz, leaving a vacant site (which, by the way, is only being built upon at this very moment, after being a car park for well over 40 years). In a back room of the shop I found the temporary Honorary Secretary of the Dispensary sitting at a table, and there were shelves around the walls. On these stood perhaps 100 old and beautiful bottles of various coloured liquids which had Latin labels. I was gazing on the remaining physical embodiment of the Bloomsbury Dispensary. The Hon. Secretary was a neighbouring clergyman, who was also a Trustee, and he explained the present situation following the bomb damage. He told me the only remaining medical official from the old days was the Dispenser, a Mr. Esam, if I remember right, but he had taken his pension in 1948. The demolished Dispensary premises had been leased from the Bedford Estate, the local landowners, and the lease still had 10 years to run. I think that meant the rent of £96 per annum was still payable – in addition to the rent of the temporary shop. So the position was unsatisfactory, especially as the setting up of the National Health Service on 1 July 1948 had recently removed the possibility of any resumption of the Dispensary's former work. The war had changed the whole Dispensary picture – its work, its buildings and its staff were all no more – though the Charity Commission's Scheme which governed it was still in force, as was the Dispensary itself theoretically. The long lists of honoured and respected names of Honorary Physicians, Honorary Surgeons, Apothecaries, and Resident Medical Officers, and finally Secretaries, had come to an end (in all departments) by 1948, and the control of any future presence devolved on to a few hard-pressed clergymen, who were among the surviving Trustees. The year 1948 had proved to be the climacteric, just 6 months prior to my arrival on the scene. It was clear the old ethos and *modus operandi* had departed, and that any possible resurrection of the purposes of the Bloomsbury Dispensary would fall to the surviving Trustees, if and when they could devise new uses. It was a strange situation, in which the way ahead was not easily discerned.

The Bloomsbury Dispensary for the Relief of the Sick Poor (to give it its full title from the Scheme) had been founded on October 26, 1801 (the year in which the first census was held in England) at premises roughly opposite the British Museum, 62 Great Russell Street, with the Duke of Bedford, its landlord, also as its Patron. It was instituted chiefly by the exertions of Dr George Pinckard, Mr Blair and some mutual friends – Pinckard was a physician and Blair was a surgeon. Two circumstances which recommended the new Dispensary were the easy admission of patients to its benefits and vaccination. Overseers of the Poor in every parish had been empowered to levy local taxes for medical care in London from 1601, but as was stated in 1663 "the more necessitous sort of people were fain to languish unrelieved for want of being able to purchase health at the Apothecarey's rates, or were deterred from applying themselves to a doctor till their diseases had taken too deep roots to be eradicated". Until the Poor Law Act of 1834 there was no specific legislation for any general system of medical relief for the poor. Reliance was placed on private voluntary associations and philanthropic benevolence; and until 1867, with the passing of the Metropolitan Poor Act,

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there were few, if any, sick asylums for the poor, and then only in London. I think the first Dispensary in London was that founded in Aldersgate Street in 1770, and this and others which were founded later were to become the corner stone of humane medical care for many years to come. It was estimated that by 1802 the general London Dispensaries were serving 50,000 persons annually.

When the Bloomsbury Dispensary was founded in 1801, it had principally in mind the perfectly appalling "Rookery of St. Giles" south of Great Russell Street and north of the church itself. This was one dense mass of houses through which ran curved and tortuous lanes thronged with loiterers, while stagnant gutters and piles of garbage and filth were on all sides. The walls of the houses were the colour of bleached soot. Notices in the windows advertised "Lodgings at 3d. a night". Insanitary, verminous shacks of houses accommodated, often in one room, many families, and drunkenness lulled misery into a short-lived forgetfulness", as Cobbett wrote. The poor deprived themselves of what health they had by money spent on beer and spirits in the way absinthe had the same result in France.

The Dispensary Physician in 1866 said he had attended a case of typhoid in a family where 5 persons occupied one room measuring 8 feet by 8 feet. Yet this was after the cutting of New Oxford Street through the St. Giles Rookery in 1847 had removed some of the worst dwellings. A great feature of the overcrowding was the coming of the railways in the 1840's with the use of Irish labour, and the displacement of thousands due to the laying down of the tracks.

Sanitation was minimal, and privies were emptied from houses only if inhabitants could afford to pay the clearance bills. In 1818 the question of converting the privy at the Bloomsbury Dispensary into a water-closet was considered, the cost being £8.6s.0d., but apparently this work was not done, for in 1820 and in 1822 bills for emptying the privy were paid. On top of all this, the lack of a water supply accounted for illnesses and indescribable misery on a colossal scale. Down to the later 19th Century Central London appears virtually to have been still in the Middle Ages in this direction. It was suspected that the royal drains were responsible for the typhoid that killed the Prince Consort in 1861, the year in which London installed its first two main sewers. Thomas Carlyle did not instal a water-closet in his home in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, until 1870. In 1865 the Bloomsbury Dispensary house visitors recommended that "Gas be carried into the Patients' waiting room and the dispensing room at an estimated cost of 38/-" (about 190 of our pence today). On top of all this, the Window Tax, still in force in 1800, reduced the numbers of windows to a minimum, thus adding to the general gloom and unhealthiness due to a lack of fresh air.

Only 20 years before the Bloomsbury Dispensary was started men preferred to die in peace rather than enter the "cutting ward of Barts", for among the many hazards they had to face, was the daunting charge of 19/6d. for burial fees (returnable, of course,if they lived). The use of chloroform was really unknown until about about 1853, when Queen Victoria, facing her eighth confinement agreed to its use. In the Dispensary several operations were carried out in 1852 with the use (in the Surgeon's words) of "our valuable assistant, the Chloroform".

For whom was the "Bloomsbury Dispensary for the Relief of the Sick Poor" (to give it its proper full title) really intended? It was not as if any persons, such as paupers or the desperately poor, could walk in and ask for treatment. Dear me no. It was to worry the doctors from time to time that persons might be obtaining the benefits on the foundation "because the clergy and subscribers were careless in the exercise of due caution in distributing letters of recommendation".

The principle was, the people in the congregations of St. Giles and other nearby churches gave money for the Bloomsbury Dispensary through church collections and general donations, and the assistant clergy attended at the Vestry Room (in 1896, for instance on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 to 1, I think it was) in order to distribute the letters of recommendation that had been handed to the Rector on behalf of the donors. "Strangely, I believe, it appears to have been left to the judgement of these curates whether the letters of recommendation to the charity for treatment should be to a physician or a surgeon! The surgeon in 1861 said, though he did not want to see the Dispensary an exclusive charity, he was gratified to see the majority of the Dispensary's patients were from the class originally intended – i.e. impoverished tradesmen, workmen and servants, and he added that he would like to see more discrimination used in the selection of cases, as there were still a large number sent along who would more properly be subjects for medical relief at the workhouse." This may seem astonishing, but there was often in christian charitable work in the 19th Century a "good repute" requirement in the award of benefits. In 1865 the physician reminded the trustees that the Dispensary was not established for the idle or improvident, or for those who could pay for medical aid. Apparently the acknowledged immoral people did not qualify. Confirmed paupers, he added, should be sent to the Parish Doctor; and no letters should be given to strangers, or indeed to any who were not well known to their recommenders as persons whose characters and misfortunes would bear investigation, or who did not belong to the class for whom the charity was founded.

To be poor was to be of the lower orders, but to be a "pauper" was to be lower still and one of the debased beings on what was called "the parish", or parish relief. Paupers, therefore, were cared for by the workhouses and the Parish Doctor. While the better off could fend for themselves, it was the unfortunate class between these and the paupers for whom little or nothing was done medically and this is where the Bloomsbury Dispensary came in – with its letters of recommendation handed direct by donors or by the curates at the local churches. Certain ancient pension institutions still operate the same method – if you subscribe you can also nominate recipients of the charity. So the Bloomsbury Dispensary was really for the respectable impoverished. God help you in the 19th Century if you were not "respectable", even when poor.

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The clergy seemed even to be certifying that this person or that, was known to them – and therefore respectable. Even in my boyhood, to know a clergyman made you respectable.

In the Dispensary's record is to be found much information about the patients' work, e.g. such as those working in metals, in lead, mercury and copper, stone masons, horse-hair workers, cabinet makers, joiners,gas-fitters and French polishers. Bronchial consumption (the great killer) and metallic poisoning were the result of inhalation from work of this sort, which often proved fatal. At the close of the first ten years of the work of the Bloomsbury Dispensary, 10,014 persons had been treated, of whom 1541 had been visited in their own homes, 229 had died and 285 had been innoculated for the "cow-pock". These innoculations were one of the Dispensary's main objectives from its inception.

In the Resident Medical Officers' report for 1867, the number of cases of certain leading diseases, in order of importance, were as follows:-

Cholera and choleric diarrhoea	892 cases
Catarrh, Bronchitis and Bronchial Pneumonia	488 cases
Rheumatism and Gout	186 cases
Phthisis (consumption)	152 cases
Heart Disease	70 cases
Measles	45 cases
Diseases of the Liver	43 cases
Whooping Cough	35 cases

Cancer seems to have come on to the stage noticeably, for the first time in 1902.

The Dispensary doctors were often outstanding men. The first Honorary Physician, Dr George Pinckard, had seen service in the Army in the West Indies before he began to live at No. 99 Great Russell Street. It was said of him in 1865 "his zeal and activity contributed to the establishment of the Bloomsbury Dispensary, which is become one of the best regulated and most respectable institutions of the kind in this Great Metropolis". He died in Bloomsbury Square actually writing a prescription in his consulting room in 1835, having given thirty years service to the Dispensary. William Blair, the first Honorary Surgeon, was a most saintly man. He retired due to ill-health in 1822 and died in the same year. Portraits of Pinckard and Blair were painted by Henry Meyer, the nephew of Hoppner, for the Dispensary, and that of Blair is superb. I discovered several Dispensary portraits, including these two, languishing in the basement of the parochial school in Endell Street, where they had been placed after the bombing. Alas, I found a boys' club playing football close by them so I rescued them, not realising of whom they were, and had them repaired and cleaned. Today I am glad to say they hang above the staircase in the South porch of St Giles Church. The third and fourth portraits were of George Stone, a former Secretary of the Dispensary, and of Stephen Hough, an original Trustee of the Dispensary in 1801. This last is also by Meyer and is quite excellent. Up to 1948, when the old regime of the Dispensary came to an end, there had been nine Honorary Physicians and six Honorary Surgeons – all coveted appointments and well earned. There had also been eighteen apothecaries or Resident Medical Officers discharging the routine work prior to 1948. There had only been nine Secretaries between 1801 and 1941.

The Pinckard family was the corner-stone of the charity, but almost greater in effect than the Pinckard benefactions was the introduction to the charity of George Stone, who was the Secretary from 1841-1855. He was solicitor to the Medical Clinics and General Life Assurance Society of Jermyn Street. At his death he left the residue of his large estate to be divided between the Treasurers of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, St George's Hospital, Hyde Park, the Consumption Hotel, Brompton and the Bloomsbury Dispensary – so can be seen how powerfully this last was rated, when it was equated with St George's for instance. The Dispensary was in the finest medical company. That legacy actually came in 1888, but as it had been long in Chancery, it then amounted to £62,000, bringing great relief to the Charity when it was fully stretched, providing fine new premises, in Streatham Street off Bloomsbury Street, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1880. It was these premises which were bombed during the war.

A new scheme for the government of the work of the charity was introduced in 1892, when the funds of the charity were transferred to the Official Trustee of Charitable Funds at the Charity Commission, and academic standards of MRCP or FRCP, MRCS or FRCS and LRCP for the Resident Medical Officer were required. It was stated in the Scheme that no persons should be deemed proper objects of the Charity but those who were really necessitous and not maintained by their Parish. The limits upon home visitations were laid down by reference to specific roads to North, South, East and West (I think Euston Road and the Strand became the North and South boundaries). The Metropolitan District Nursing Association provided a nurse daily at the Dispensary from 1897, in the way the Association had already been employed in visiting and nursing patients of the Dispensary at home.

In 1949, when the effect of the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948 was considered, it was clear that other activities would have to be devised for the Dispensary, provided they came within the scope of the Scheme under which it was managed. It was difficult to know how we could operate, but poor persons were sent into the country or to convalescent homes, with the co-operation of hospitals where this could be achieved. We were up against a feeling that we had become outmoded, and appeals to local GPs to consider how we might help were unheeded. We set up a badly needed chiropody service, in co-operation with the Holborn Borough Council's Old People's Welfare Committee. I recall making the surprise proposal that we should give £1,000 to the Metropolitan District Nursing Association in 1954 on the grounds that they were carrying on work the Dispensary had previously done. Now, however, the District Nurses have been taken into the Health Service, and we cannot help them. In 1956 we decided to appoint a paid part-time secretary, and in the same year Dr M H P Joyce was

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appointed to work in the field of mental illness more or less privately, cases being recommended to him by members of the Committee of Management (The Trustees), several of whom were parish clergy. This arrangement ran in a desultory sort of way for perhaps two decades. Then a new scheme was sought by us in 1958 which came into force in 1962.

This stipulated the income of the Dispensary could be used only in the following three ways:-

1. The supply of bedding, comforts, food, fuel and medical or other aids.
2. Grants to defray the expense of recuperative holidays, or of obtaining domestic help.
3. The donation of money in aid of the funds of any convalescent home or other institution or organisation established, or to be established, for the care and relief of sick or infirm poor persons.

All this was a shadow of our earlier pre-NHS work, and before the bombing.

However there are four restrictions which the Trustees have to observe, namely:-

1. They shall not apply the income of the Charity in relief of rates, taxes or other public funds, but in supplementary relief or assistance provided out of public funds.
2. They shall not commit themselves to making recurring grants.
3. They shall not give assistance to individuals unless satisfied that such are deserving and in need, and
4. They shall not apply the income of the Charity save in accordance with decisions taken at only convened meeting of this body.

Among the Trustees today are a representative of the Royal College of Physicians and a representative of the Royal College of Surgeons. A solicitor is the Chairman and several clergy are among the Trustees, including of course those appointed ex-officio, as the Scheme requires.

This address has been compiled largely from the contents of the booklet *The Story of the Bloomsbury Dispensary* which I proposed should be compiled in 1971. Miss Roma McAuliffe was the author and it was published in 1973.

In recent years the Dispensary's grants have been made in cases where the NHS or DHSS fails to cover costs.

If a Local Authority re-houses a chronically ill person we are happy to help defray removal charges, or to augment their grants for new, specialist household items to enable the client to live more comfortably.

The withdrawn and debilitated daughter, aged 13, of a schizoid mother was sent on holiday to her grandparents, living in Spain.

A young woman whose bladder had been removed was provided with a liquidiser.

At the bottom end of the financial spectrum an elderly diabetic on a special diet needed bathroom scales. I must add that the diet was a great success - she is 3 stones lighter and keeping that way.

An annual call on our resources is the provision of gift vouchers (usually Safeway's and Sainsbury's, and £15 in value) at Christmas time. We have our own list of names and the local Social Services organisation recommends others. This has replaced the Christmas parcels of a few years ago and gives the recipients the ability to make their own choices.

Our disposable income is about £4,000 p.a., and subject to stock market fluctuations. This is not a sum to make any significant contribution to the national picture of "health charges" but can make all the difference to people on a local and parochial level.

We are constantly on the look out for new ways to help, always bearing in mind the restrictions of our constitution, and one way that needs looking at is the health and well-being of the carers who at home face incredible difficulties all day and every day nursing spouses, parents or other family members. A source of information to us on this particular problem is the community nurse who can feed back recommendations.

No matter how all-enveloping a health service is envisaged by the politicians there will always be room for a little extra help from the voluntary sector and the individual's responsibility to the community should not be denigrated but instilled in our young from the beginning.

In the mid-fifties I happened to see a tall stack of bound minute books of the Dispensary awaiting the dustman - I put them straight in my car and took them to the bank.

It appears to me that there is a lot of information available in these records which could be made available to any serious historian prepared to work on them.

Letters - Arsenic Murders

There is evidence that the *Pharmaceutical Historian* is widely read. At our Oxford conference I gave a Paper on "Murder and Poisoning by Arsenic" which was duly reported.

Since then I have received much correspondence. There were enquiries from a USA Southern State Forensic Department on two cases I had mentioned where arsenic had been administered in an unusual way.

An interesting case given to me was of Audrey Marie Hilley who killed her husband with arsenic and a few years later her 19-year-old daughter. Found out and charged she skipped bail and went to Florida. Remarried, they moved to New England for several years. Eventually she informed her husband she had a rare blood disease.

Going to Texas for a few weeks she dyed her hair, put on some weight and then returned to her husband stating she was the wife's twin sister and that the wife had died. The husband believed this though the community was suspicious. Unfortunately for her she had chosen the name of another fugitive. People thought she was a terrorist. When questioned by the police she thought they knew who she originally was. Taken to the original State she was convicted.

She escaped on a weekend furlough but it was a cold wet time. Found suffering from hypothermia she died on the way to hospital.

In Bulgaria a case known as the "Grandmothers secret" went on for many years. Recalcitrant, violent, immoral, faithless husbands were got rid of by arsenic. Only the grandmothers knew and they kept the secret to themselves.

Perhaps your readers may know of other interesting cases which I would be delighted to hear.

Mervyn Madge

Letters will be forwarded - Editor

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A Book of Recipes

By K. David Richardson

The following recipes were obtained from a manuscript book entitled, "BENJAMIN STUBBS, HIS BOOK, 1826".

Benjamin Stubbs was born in 1813 and died sometime in the 1850's when he was in his forties.

The section of the book from page 23 to page 40 includes pharmaceutical 'receipts' and formulae for household items such as blacking, ink, polish, hair oil, barm, pop, vinegar, lemonade and ginger beer powder.

As the term 'receipt' was used earlier than this period, perhaps the formulations were passed down by word of mouth, especially bearing in mind the spelling. Many terms would be more common to the 1780's rather than the 1830's.

The remainder of the book entries during the life of Benjamin Stubbs consist of recipes for domestic use, pottery bodies and colours and designs for pottery decoration, including a scroll design for a leech jar. Benjamin Stubbs was evidently an independent pottery decorator, on page 151 are details of a pottery kiln he purchased in 1849.

I have added notes to the receipts giving what I consider would be the current thinking in the 1820's.

I am grateful to Rodney S. Hampson M.A., Ceramic Historian of Newcastle, Staffs. for allowing me to use these abstracts from the notebook which is his property.

Lucifer Match P.28
half dram of phosphorus 1 dram of clorate of pottach ground separate Mixtup with gum size
put in first the phospharous in a little gum size disolve the phosphorus very sloly must not Boil only warm so as to disolve the phospharus Keep adding a little clorate of potach till well mixt take great care to keep the hair from the phosphorus

The first friction match appeared in the early 1830's to be followed by the Swedish friction safety matches in 1850. This must have been the recipe for an early friction match.

Prior to this (apart from flint and steel tinder boxes) - for a short period there were acid dip matches - a sliver of wood to the head of which adhered a compund of potassium chlorate and sugar. When dipped in sulphuric acid the chemical reaction generated enough heat to ignite it.

Wedgwood in 1813 had perfected a ceramic "Pyrophosphorous Vase" to hold the acid, Spode also made "Phosphorous Pots" and the firm of Coalport also made them.

The short period of time that these were used was a "flash in the pan" but Wedgwood then sold the pots as ink wells.

Liniment for Strains P.29
1oz Spirits of Salamonic 1oz Spirits of salts 1oz Oil of Lime 1oz Olive Oil

Salamonic = Sal Ammoniac = impure Ammonium Chloride which acts as a stimulant to the skin.

Spirits of Salts = a strong impure Hydrochloric Acid.

For Indigestion or Low Spiritedness P.29
1oz Gentian root 1oz Bruised Ginger half an oz of dried lemon peel infused in 3 half pints of boiling water 1 wine glass to be taken 3 times a day with a little volattile salts about the size of a pea.

Above this title has been added -for Teetolaler, perhaps this is why infusion had taken place with water instead of the recommended spirit and water which gave a better extraction. A tonic bitter used for dyspepsia and hysteria. A wine glass was accepted a 1½ fl.oz. and this dose was mid-way in the range for Gentian.

Vollatile Salts = Ammonium Chloride, not really recommended internally but probably used as an antacid.

Tooth Powder P.29
1 dram of powderd charcoal 1oz of Burnt rock allum 1oz Burnt Borax ground together to a fine powder and applied to the teeth with a brush

Rock Alum is a variety from Roccha in Spain and is heated to drive off the water of crystalisation. Borax was reputed to be good for thrush-like deposits. Today we would regard the charcoal as a good adsorbent and the borax as a water softener.

Sleeping Cordial for Children P.30
1 dram of crude opium infused in half pint of water stew it in a hoven strain it through a lawn then add ¼lb Treacle (Added afterwards . . . add 2 drops Oil annice seed on a little lump sugar)

No dose is given. Presumably the addition was made to take away the taste of the opium.

White Mixture P.30
half pint water 1 penyworth Magnesia 5 or 6 Drops of Nitrick Acid this is the white mixture but to complete the taste and flavour add about 20 drops of Oil of Annice Seed on about a teaspoonful of burnt sugar to be shaken in the bottle

An antacid and laxative. The Nitric Acid is probably added to the Magnesium Oxide to expel Carbon Dioxide from carbonate impurities.

To Make Paragoric P.30
half an oz of Benzoin flowers 2 Drams of creud opium half pint of rum to stand together 5 days Shake the bottle frequently during the 5 days then add half pint water & filter through paper & it will be ready for use or you may add to the opium 10 Grains of camphur before the water is put in

Paregoric is a synonym for Camphorated Tincture of Opium.

Now made from Tinct. Opium 1 in 20 of 60% Alcohol and containing Benzoic Acid, Camphor and Aniseed Oil, and containing 0.05% Morphine. The above preparation would contain about 0.5% Morphine.

Strong Liver Pills P.31
1 dram of blue pill 1 dram of extract of gentian Mixt up together & divided into 24 pills 2 to be taken at bed time to be followed with castor oil in the morning this is of great service

Blue Pill is Mercury pill - made at Apothecaries Hall and containing 1gr. Mercury in 3gr. of mass. 2 of

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the pills would contain 5gr. of Blue Pill, 4-6gr. being the 'alterative' dose i.e. alters excretion and restores normal functions. The purging dose for Blue Pill would be 10-60gr.

The Gentian was added for dyspepsia and 'hysteria'.

General Purging Pill for Men P.31
1 pennyworth soccotrine Aloes 1 pennyth Gambuge ½ oil of Annice seed to be workt totether as the above 1 or 2 is a dose at bedtime

A cathartic using purest form of Aloes - a bitter stimulating purgative which does not make the stools thin and quickens the circulation. Dose 5-15gr. Aloes in solution acts on the rectum. Gamboge dissolves before it passes the pylorus and can affect the stomach, is quick and violent,but mixed with Aloes its effect is reduced.

Pil Gamboge Co. contains Gamboge 1. Ext. Aloe 1, Pulv. Cinnam. Co. 1 and Soap 2, the soap obviates the tendency to irritate the rectum.

Mackenzies Billious & Indigestion Pills P.31
2 drams of scammony 2 drams of Extract of colocynth 1 pennyworth of Essential Oil of carraway to make them up in 48 pills 2 is a dose in ginger Tea

Scammony a purgative and cathartic, good for worms. Dose 3-15gr. Colocynth a powerful drastic cathartic but the Extract is milder than the pulp. Dose of Extract 5-30gr. 2 pills would give a dose of approx. 3gr. of each which is a minimal dose.

An Emetic for Stout Men P.31
30 grains of Ipicacuanha 2 grains of Tarter the ametic to be disolvd in warm water work it of with camomile tea.

Tartar is Crude Potass. Acid Tartrate which has a mild action on the small intestine. Ipecac root 10-30gr. is an emetic. The Chamomile Tea acts as a carminative, emollient and aperient.

Eye Water good receipt P.31
10 grains of sulphate of Zinc 1 Dram of the childs cordial before sweetened 4oz spring water 1 Drop to be dropt in the eye 5 times a day.

10gr. in 8oz is recommended for external use.

Liniment for Bruises - and Scalds P.32
Equal parts of Lime water & Linseed Oil 1oz Lime in 1 pint of water take the liquid & leave the settlings at the bottom & mix equal quantity of lime water & oil to be frequently applied with linen rags to be kept moise this is to get the fire out then to dress it with equal parts of bezilicum & brown serate observing whether proud flesh arises if so dust the place through a lawn with burnt allum powder if the place becomes much inflamed a white bread poultice must be laid on the plaster keep the body cool the plaster should be renewd at least 2 times or 3 times a day

The Liq. Calc. Hydrox. being alkaline will form a soap with the Linseed Oil. Brown Cerate is Brown beeswax. Bezilicum = Yellow Basilicum Ointment which contains Olive Oil, Yellow wax, Yellow resin (Colophony), Burgundy Pitch & Turpentine. This is described as a digestive stimulant for dressing wounds and ulcers.

Present Relief for Tooth Ache P.32
The Escence of pelatory

Pellitory Root = Pyrethrum Root. On chewing it produces a pungent & peculiar sensation. Used to promote the flow of saliva especially in cases of toothache & in paralysis of the tongue & muscles of the throat. St. barts used it in the form of a gargle for relaxation of the uvula & soft palate & for enlarged tonsils.

The liquid form is prepared by boiling ½oz of bruised root in 1 part of distilled water until the fluid is reduced by half. Strain when cold & add 2 drams. Liq. Ammonia.

Equal parts of Mastich and Pyrethrum Root could also be chewed. (Mastich was the resin used to fill tooth cavities). This also cleans the teeth.

Best Gentle Purging Pills P.32
¼ of an oz Hira Pira ¼oz jollape powder ¼ of an oz Rubarb powder ¼oz Cream of Tartur ¼ of an oz Bugbean

All the ingredients are cathartics except Buckbean (Marsh trefoil) which is an aperient & "loosens the belly".

Pot. Acid Tartrate, Jalap, Rhubarb and Hiera Piera. The latter is a mixture of powdered Aloes and Canellae (Wild Cinnamon bark) used as a warm stimulant to the stomach.

Liquid for a Cough P.33
6 drams vinegar of squills 4 drams Tincture squills 2 drams of spirits of Nitre 20 drops of digitalis half lb brown sugar 3 half pints water Mixt well together take a wine glass 2 or 3 times a day the sugar to be dissolved in a little of the water

Vinegar of Squills has an expectorant action by stimulating the lung 'follicles' and increasing pulmonary exhalation.

Spirits of Nitre = Spirit of Nitrous Ether, an irritant.

Digitalis diminishes the flow of fluid into the lung thereby rendering expectoration more easy.

This is similar to a contemporary recipe: Tinct. Scillae m10 Acid Nit. Dil. m6 Ext. Hyosc. gr3 Water 1½oz. The draught to be taken at night.

Treatment for Diary or Looseness P.34
1st give a Gentle purge of rubarb & magnesia equal quantities a teaspoonfull is a powder afterwards give a mixture Equal parts of godfry ? Castor oil & mucilage of gumarabic a table spoonful is a dose 2 or 3 times a day.

? Godfry (Godfrey's Cordial is Treacle, water Sassafras Oil, Alcohol & Laudanum 1%). This has a diaphoretic action - to make one sweat and could be "obtained from a wholesale druggist, who makes and sells many hundred dozen bottles in the course of a year".

Venereal treatment P.35
1st Give a cooling purge consisting of Equal parts of rubarb Jalap cream tarter & epsom salts 2 drams each for a quart Bottle 2 table spoonfull 2 or 3 times a day 1 of the following powders twice a day 2oz Gum arabic 1oz Cream tarter for 24 powders after the eat of the water is gone take equal parts of balsam cuppaby & sweet spirits of nitre a teaspoonful in Linseed tea 3 times a day & wash & inject with the siringe quart the following mixture Lime water half pint calomel 1 drams & be sure to lay a side the use of heavy food & every thing of a hot nature such a spices & cleve upon rice milk & plain gruel & co when thirsty use whey or linseed tea should the part be much

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inflamd foment with warm cammomine tea when the injiing? of the parts give pain to the lions take a bandage tie it up with a bandage round the lions after the pain inflamation or eat of wine are gone should the running continue take 2 of the following pills night & morning half an oz of venice turpentine boiled till stiff made up with half a dram of calomel.

Cuppaby = Copaiba Resin, stimulant, diuretic and laxative, acts more powerfully on the urinary passage than any of the other resinous fluids. Sweet Spirits of Nitre promotes secretion of watery fluids from the blood thus dropsical swellings are reduced.

Lime Water plus Calomel - this is three times the recommended strength - the combination causes a decomposition giving a peroxide of Mercury which increases its efficacy. This is frequently used for secondary syphilis.

Cammomine = Camomile

Turpentine acts on the kidneys in small doses and on the colon in large doses.

Prescription for Astmatic Cough P.36
Compound tincture of benzoin
12 drops to be taken on a little sugar
3 times a day
Benzoin - "expectorant, was formerly used in asthma & other pulmonary affections, it has however fallen into disuse".

Linement for Rheumatism Sprains & Etc P.38
3oz Spirits of wine & camphur
3oz Spirits of Turpentine
1oz Salt Petre
Pound the Salt Petre & mix altogether & rub it well in by the fire

Spirits of Wine = Brandy ?. Spirits of Turpentine is Turpentine rectified by distillation. Salt Petre = Potass. Nitrate. A stimulating liniment used for bruises.

Another P.38
½ Pint Neatsfoot oil
½ Pint Turpentine
3-400 Drops of Vitrolic Acid
Put in 1st the Oil 2nd the Turpentine then pour on the Acid Must be mixed in an open vessel

A footnote says that "best 200 drops acid". which shows that the 'receipt' was probably made.

Vitriolic Acid = Sulphuric Acid.

Neatsfoot Oil = fixed oil obtained by boiling ox or cow feet in water.

For the Boil Scurvy & Etc P.38
2oz of salts 1½oz of Spanish juice
1oz of senne ½lb Raisins Put in 3 Pints of water & reduce it to a quart A little Ginger & Brandy put to it will Preserve it a long time it may be taken night & morning or when necessary but the first thing in a morning is Best

Salts ? Salts of England = Epsom Salts. Spanish Juice - Liquorice Juice - Ext.Glycyrrhizae.

Similar to Confection of Senna - a gentle laxative. Dose 2 drams or more.

Childs Mixture for Large Belly with Sickness Purging Wind and Worms P.39
Carbonate of Magnesia 1 Drahm
Rhubarb half Drm
oil of dill 10 drops
Pure water 16 ounces give 1 or 2 Teaspoonful 3 or 4 times a day

Sweating Powders P.39
Nitrate of potash 1 Dram
Powdered Gum 2 Drams
Powdered Ipecachuana 12 grains made up in 12 Powders Give 1 every night & morning

Diaphoretic - The Nitrate acts directly on cutaneous vessels.

The 1gr. of Ipecac. Powder has an expectorant action as well as acting as a diaphoretic.

Liver Pills P.39
Take of Calomel 12 grains
Scammonia in Powder
Ext Colocynth of each 1 Dram
Antimona 4 grains
Oil of Anniseed 12 drops
Mix with water into 24 Pills
Two or 3 every other night

A purging cathartic. There is a contemporary Antimony & Mercury pill.

Cough Mixture for Old People P.39
Take of Oximel of Squils
Paregoric Each 1 ounce
Balsam of Tolu 2 Drams
Antimonia of Wine 2 Drs
Give 1 or 2 Teaspoonful after for cough

Antimony is an emetic in small doses.

Lotion for Piles P.40
Powder of Nut galls
Sugar of lead
Sulphate of Zinc Each ½ Drm.
Put into a quart of Infusion of Oak Bark To be Bathed well night & morning the bowels to be kept well open

Sugar of Lead = lead Acetate to stop haemorrage. Other ingredients are strong astringents.

For restoring the Use of the Limbs P.40
½ Pint best french Brandy
½ lb Best treacle
1oz best Sweet or heating oil
a wine glass is a dose
Put the brandy first into a bottle then the treacle Stirring well then the oil

From a lady in Leek who as been restored by it in a short time and coud not move her finger

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September 12
British Pharmaceutical Conference, Cardiff,
BSHP Session -
Dr. Tom Davies - Topic to be announced
Mr. T.D. Turner - The pharmacy of the physicians of Myddfaii

November 13
Dr. Jane O'Hara-May - Title to be announced

1991
April 5-7
BSHP Spring Conference - Ibis Hotel, Greenwich

Congratulations
...To Nita and Matthew Burnby for arranging at very short notice the "very friendly" Spring conference at Matlock Bath

...To Miss D.A. Hutton, a past president BSHP, on admission to the Freedom of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London.

Thank you
...To the Squibb organisation for once more supporting the Foundation Lecture.

...To Merrell for again contributing to the production of the *Pharmaceutical Historian.*

Officers
At the May meeting the Committee elected the following officers of the Society:-

President	Dr. M.P. Earles
Vice President	Mr. W.A. Jackson
Treasurer	Mr. G. Gunthorpe
Joint Honorary Secretaries	Dr. W.E. Court and Mr. A. Wright

A Meeting in Belgium

The 'Kring' or 'Cercle' for the History of Pharmacy in the Benelux countries holds two weekend meetings a year alternately in Belgium and Holland. As was reported in The *Pharmaceutical Historian,* December 1989, three members of BSHP, Dr J. Burnby, Miss A. Hutton and Mr L. Matthews attended the meeting at Amersfoort last October, and now the same three have been to the gathering at Charleroi, Belgium held on May 5-6, 1990.

Papers ranged from notable pharmacists in the Charleroi region to the use of the computer in the library, from medicine in the American War of Independence to the cult of Saints Cosmos and Damien. One which probably aroused most interest was that on majolica drug jars from Antwerp given by the curator of a Brussels' museum.

An invitation was extended to the members of the Cercle to join the B.S.H.P. 1991 Conference which is to be held in London and Greenwich.

J.B.

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Manufacturing Drugs in the Early Consumer Society: The Case of Corbyns

By Roy Porter

Medical historians have largely ignored the history of medical economics – how doctors earned their incomes and how large these were. They have lavished far more time and energy on the histories of physic and surgery than on the history of pharmacy. The pharmacist or druggist is commonly assumed to have been right at the base of the medical pyramid, a mere shop-keeper, maybe little better than a quack.

The reality seems rather different. There is plenty of evidence of druggists' businesses flourishing in London from the Restoration, and from shortly after in the provinces. And many of the early druggists were, economically speaking, big business. For example, in 1710, Anthony Kingsley, a wholesale druggist in Newgate Street, London, went into partnership with his apprentice, Edward Pincke and Anselm Beaumont. Between them, they put up capital totalling no less than £8000. Numerous other family firms or partnerships in pharmaceutical manufacture prospered right through the 18th century. Amongst them were the Bevans' pharmacy at Plough Court, which eventually became Allen and Hanbury's; Richard Battley's at St Paul's Churchyard, ultimately taken over by Thomas Keating of flea-powder fame; Thomas Fynmore's pharmacy in Aldersgate St; Samuel Tower's premises in Oxford Road, and Thomas Bratton's in Castle Street. All these businesses had continuous histories stretching forward into the present century.

Some grew to an impressive size. William Jones's firm provides a good instance. Jones first practised as a druggist in Little Russell Street, as he expanded moving rather appropriately in 1757 to premises in Great Russell Street. He operated on a large scale. For example, he secured the plum contract for supplying antimony and cream of tartar to Dr Robert James, patentee of Dr James' Fever Powders (his order book for 1772 notes 'the usual 500lb of antimony' for James). Jones personally undertook twice-yearly rides around the country angling for orders, and exploited the business potential of the newly-founded county hospitals by securing contracts to supply the infirmaries at Chester, Hereford, Salisbury and Stafford.

Here I want to draw attention to the business records of one of the largest – though almost wholly neglected – 18th century pharmaceutical manufacturers, Thomas Corbyn, the bulk of which have recently been purchased by, and are available at, the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.

A Quaker, born in Worcestershire in 1711, Thomas Corbyn was apprenticed in 1728 to Joseph Clutton, a London apothecary, also from Worcester, though, it seems, not a Quaker. On Clutton's death in 1743, Thomas Corbyn got his freedom from the Society of Apothecaries, and jointly ran the business with Clutton's widow, a move which suggests that the pharmaceutical side must already have been well-developed.

In 1747, Corbyn entered into a partnership with Clutton's son, Morris (who was himself freed from the Apothecaries Company in that year). Each put up nearly £2000 in capital. Morris Clutton however died prematurely just seven years later, when Corbyn, having successfully raised thousands of pounds in capital to buy out Clutton's heirs, took over the business single-handed. This arrangement did not prove permanent, and for the last thirty years of his life, Corbyn traded with a succession of partners.

What was the nature of the business? Joseph Clutton seems to have combined operating as a chymist with a certain interest in medicine itself. Amongst other things, he published *A Short and Certain Method of Curing Continuous Fevers.* There is no sign, however, that either Thomas Corbyn or Morris Clutton, though freemen of the Apothecary's Company, spent any of their time involved in the care of the sick. In all legal documents, Corbyn is habitually referred to as a chymist or druggist. To one correspondent he writes, 'the drug trade is my proper business', noting quite candidly 'it will pay better than any other merchandize'.

Corbyn's business lay in the manufacture and sale of drugs, both wholesale and retail, though the former comprised the heart of the enterprise. As can be gathered from their catalogues, stock-lists, warehouse records, and their elaborate recipe books, Corbyn's made and vended simple drugs such as senna, rhubarb, clove oil, arrow root and bark; compound medicines and galenicals, such as theriac, tartar emetic, Balsamic Tincture, Hungary Water, Citron Water, and hundreds more; nostrums, such as Bateman's Pectoral Drops, Daffy's Elixir, and various toiletries as well, such as dentrifice. Joseph Clutton had marketed his own nostrum, 'Clutton's Febrifuge', but Corbyn – who had a reputation as a no-nonsense Quaker – never attached his own name to proprietary medicines, and nostrum-mongering amounted to only a sliver of the business. Indeed, what is impressive is the dedicated care Corbyn's put into the manufacture of high-quality drugs, made to the College pharmacopoeia standards.

The Company possessed massive recipe books, listing the ingredients and proportions for several hundred different preparations, together with lengthy and precise instructions for pounding, blending,

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distillation, and so forth. Many of the recipes have notes appended in later hands, which record experiments for improving techniques of manufacture, occasional failures, recommendations for alternative methods, and so forth. Most recipes contain details of itemised costing, with recommended wholesale prices for the finished product. Thus, for instance, Edinburgh Theriac could be made up by two different processes, one costing 30/s per pound, the other 23/s. Corbyn set greater store upon constant quality than cheapness or innovation. In 1750 he wrote to John and Esther White in America,

> *The simple drugs are ye best of their kind, and ye compositions not only true, but curiously prepared, and charg'd reasonable according to ye present market price. Perhaps some (i.e, potential buyers) will say ye compositions are too dear, though must insist on their goodness.*

In entrepreneurial terms, Corbyn's approach evidently paid off well, for his business grew rapidly but lastingly. In 1750 he could write to Cadwallader Evans, 'we confine ourselves pretty much to the Drug Trade, being considerably increas'd'.

Corbyn traded from premises at 300 Holborn; at a later stage further premises were taken at Poultry in the City. He had a separate laboratory, and a vast warehouse in Cold Bath Fields. His warehouse stock-book or inventory, dated December 1761, runs to 2500 different items of *materia medica,* which were stored in extraordinarily large quantities - he held 276lbs of senna and 806lbs of magnesia alba for example. It is clear, moreover, that Corbyn also made up his drugs in impressively large batches. The recipe books not infrequently require ingredients by the hundredweight. Corbyn's records show that compound medicines were manufactured in batches whose cost-price often ran to £50 or more, and whose wholesale value to Corbyn may have been twice that amount.

Surviving wage-books likewise confirm the impressive scale of the concern. The surviving evidence here is fragmentary, but it appears that the firm had in the region of ten employees at any one time in the 1760s, some of whom were presumably apprentices, and others journeymen. One set of instructions for preparing amber (grise) for sale notes that 73lb was purchased from John Wheeler; its refining required '40 operations', which consumed a total of 20 bushels of coal and required one man's time for seven weeks (the cost of the labour came to £3 6s 8d).

The real proof of the scale and success of the enterprise is contained in some fragmentary accounts for the partnership, and by extensive, though often highly tantalizing, legal bonds, records of loans, borrowings and partnership agreements. Surviving bonds indicate the magnitude of capital involved. Over the course of the 1750s, Thomas Corbyn borrowed upwards of £7460 from private individuals, mainly Quakers. Joseph Scott individually loaned him £2400, and he obtained £600 from his fellow chemist, Timothy Bevan. There is not the slightest indication that this heavy borrowing was required to get the firm out of a financial crisis. Rather, it seems that Corbyn borrowed in order to underwrite and expand his export trade. The fact that cautious Quakers were willing to vest their money in him indicates their confidence in the enterprise.

When Morris Clutton and Thomas Corbyn went into partnership in 1747, the business seems to have been worth about £4000. Subsequent documents suggest that by the 1780s, it had grown to be worth around £20,000. For one year only - 1770 - do we have a clear profit-and-loss account. This shows that the total stock at the beginning of the year amounted to £5545. Each month fresh stock to the value of between £700 and £1400 was purchased. Overall, the firm laid out some £9,452 on raw materials in that year (unfortunately we have hardly any information as to how Corbyn obtained his basic supplies). The firm incurred something like £2000 of further expenses (presumably wages, leases, rates, taxes and the like). Sales fluctuated from month to month, from a low of £493 in December to a peak of £2150 in February; *in toto* sales amounted to £13,966. As a result, Corbyn's operated with a balance of just over £2114 clear profit on the year, a tidy sum for frugal Quakers, even when split between four partners.

Just like every other contemporary businessman, Corbyn did not have all his irons in one fire. Alongside his medicaments, he often shipped consignments of other merchandise to his overseas agents and customers - gloves, shoes or haberdashery. And above all, he inevitably acted as a bill-broker, discounter, and *de facto* banker, especially to his overseas clients. In fact, a high proportion of the surviving business-records comprise legal or quasi-legal documents recording financial transactions.

How much then was the business actually worth? We lack the continued runs of figures which would answer this question. But a balance sheet of the partnership between Corbyn and Morris, Clutton, between 1746 and 1754, the year Clutton died, gives some indication of its early scale. Between them, Corbyn and Clutton invested nearly £4000 into the partnership. By the time Clutton died, the concern seems to have grown to be worth close on £14,000. In other words, within eight years, the business had expanded by about 350 per cent.

Where did the bulk of the business lie? In 1754, some £3293 was tied up in stock. A further £1520 was accounted for as 'good debts' in what was known as the 'Town Apothecaries Ledger', i.e. purchases from Corbyn and Clutton made by London dispensing apothecaries. Then £5318 was listed in the 'Country Ledger', which obviously formed the bulk of their domestic wholesale trade. A further £105 was in their 'Patients' Ledger', which was presumably their retail business. And another £1978 came from good debts in their 'Foreign Ledger'.

With whom did Corbyn trade? Mention of a 'Patient's Account' proves that he traded retail, probably both over the counter and by post. This was a marginal element in the business's overall profits, though its existence helps underline the fact that it would be wholly anachronistic to impose any rigid divide between wholesale and retail druggists for this period.

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Our records of the rest of Corbyn's home market and domestic trading are tantalisingly slight. There is no surviving correspondence for this branch of the business, and we are reliant upon the evidence of a few scanty sales-ledgers. These demonstrate that Corbyn's were successful in attracting a certain amount of custom from the most fashionable metropolitan practitioners, including John Ranby, Messenger Monsey, William Bromfield, John Fothergill, etc. (Fothergill, another Quaker, was also a personal friend). More valuably, the business also collected a number of regular substantial orders annually. Several of these came from London hospitals, such as St George's, Guy's and St Thomas's. In 1764, for example, St George's bought £127 of goods from Corbyn's. Other accounts, running into hundreds of pounds, were formed with London apothecaries, mainly, one presumes, those apothecaries who did a handsome trade by dispensing for fashionable physicians. Corbyns also got business from other manufacturing chemists, including Sylvanus and Timothy Bevan (who seem to have bought about £30 of goods a year) and Dalmohoy (who in 1762 spent £30 with Corbyn).

But the majority of orders were with provincials, many of whom are identifiable as country surgeons and apothecaries. Characteristically a sum of between £5 and £30 was changing hands annually. For example in 1779, Daniel Sutton, the inoculator, did business reaching £7 10s. Some provincials laid out far more. Thus John Bogle, the Glasow surgeon, bought goods worth £217 in 1764. Presumably many of these country customers were small-town druggists or owners of general stores.

We know more about Corbyn's exports, and all the signs are that exporting came to constitute the bulk of the profit. Joseph Clutton may or may not have exported drugs on any scale. Immediately preceding Clutton's death, the young Corbyn launched a massive export drive. He made contact with a couple of dozen sources abroad, a few in continental countries such as Portugal, but principally in the Americas, ranging from Nova Scotia and New England in the North, southwards to Jamaica and Antigua. His outlets comprised surgeons, physicians, dealers, and general agents. Some were personally known to him; most were not. What almost all had in common was that they were Quakers.

Corbyn's technique was to despatch them, unasked, a consignment of drugs in a chest, probably about £50 worth. He suggested to the recipient that they should do business on a sale-or-return basis. He asked the addressee to distribute the drugs, parcelled up into appropriate quantities, to local medical practitioners and also to planters and other substantial personages (he considerately enclosed a supply of spare small bottles and vials for the purpose). Corbyn enclosed his recommended prices, one a minimum wholesale price, below which he was as a rule unwilling to go, the other (the 'advanced' price) representing something like the best price he thought he could obtain in England. Sometimes Corbyn also sent lists of individuals he wished his agents to contact with a view to sales, occasionally accompanied by a diplomatic word of advice (e.g., he recommended Greenleaf to contact William Goldsborough of Choptank, Maryland, but warned, 'act with caution, he's Jno. Hanbury's friend'). The overriding aim was to encourage his contacts to extend outlets.

Agents were obviously free to make what profit they could out of their dealing. They were, however, to send minutely itemized sales details to Corbyn – ever attentive to the minutiae of the trade – and to arrange for bills which could be drawn upon London bankers. They were given twelve months' credit (Corbyn knew he couldn't expect payment sooner, but began to chivy if it were much further delayed).

Corbyn's bold initiative obviously paid excellent dividends. One surviving letter book contains copies of some 550 business letters, passing mainly from Corbyn himself to his outlets on the other side of the Atlantic in the period from 1742 to 1755. The correspondence shows the immense difficulties of dealing in drugs over a span of several thousand miles – the endless problems of losses, breakages, spoilage, the vagaries of the market, bad debtors etc. But also demonstrates that these were triumphantly overcome by a man of resolution and an iron business temper. Most of Corbyn's outlets clearly had no difficulty in disposing of drug consignments, and they seem to have been happy to deal with him.

The business went from strength to strength. Some agents traded very heavily. Already by 1762, John Hunt owed Corbyn £5640. A further letter-book from the early nineteenth century shows a similar pattern of trade, but that the quantities being handled were still larger. One Canadian agent, William Phillipps, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, was routinely sending orders to Corbyn and Co. totalling thousands of pounds (some of these were for colonial hospitals). Dealings with Australia begin to appear. And there is evidence of overseas customers contacting the firm on their own initiative.

Corbyn and Partners were one of a number – probably a few dozen – of large London druggists which emerged during the eighteenth century. In many cases, no records exist. Sufficient papers survive from Corbyn's, however, as also from the Plough Court Pharmacy, from Jones' and a few others, to make serious research on the 18th century origins of the pharmaceutical industry a viable, as well as a fascinating project. For now, I should like to suggest a few interim conclusions.

First, in the rise to prominence of Corbyn's, the Quaker connexion was of quite paramount importance. Corbyn's correspondence amply proves that it was the moral and business codes of the Quaker International which made long-distance, indeed trans-Atlantic, drugs trading a viable enterprise.

Second, it would be likewise difficult to exaggerate the significance of overseas markets.

Third, business records like Corbyn's indicate that we need to revise our stereotypes of the druggists.

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Doubtless, some were as the apothecaries represented them: vermin who scuttled in to occupy the shops vacated by the apothecaries themselves.

Corbyn was clearly a highly skilled manufacturing chemist and a shrewd business man. He knew his trading reputation hinged upon reliable, high quality products.

Finally, after too much academic neglect and condescension, it is surely time to acknowledge the key importance of the emergence of druggists to the whole organisation, structure and enterprise of medicine.

It was the making and marketing of drugs which provided the commodity upon which the modern business of medicine is founded.

References

This is the text of the Foundation Lecture given to the Society on 13 March, 1990. It incorporates much material from a longer paper, *'The Rise of the English Drugs Industry: The Role of Thomas Corbyn'*, published in *Medical History*, 33 (1989), 277-95, and written jointly with Dorothy Porter, where references and documentation can be found. For essential background see J.G.L. Burnby, *A Study of the English Apothecary from 1660 to 1760 (Medical History* Supplement, 3, 1983); J. Bell and T. Redwood, *Historical Sketch of the Progress of Pharmacy in Great Britain* (London, The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1880); L. Matthews, *History of Pharmacy in Britain* (Edinburgh and London, E. &. S. Livingstone, 1962). The Wellcome Corbyn Papers from Western MSS 5435-5460. They are described in a xeroxed finding list, 'Corbyn and Co, Chemists and Druggists, London'. For an extremely valuable introduction to Corbyn, see T.D. Whittet and J.G.L. Burnby, *'The Firm of Corbyn and Stacey'*, *Pharmaceutical Journal*, 228 (1982), 42-7.

Spring Conference 1990

Prophet of the Peak

By A. Lowe

Although he lived and died some 100 years ago not surprisingly Smedley's name still lives on in the hearts and minds of many Matlock people for he was indeed a truly great man.

Born in Wirksworth in 1803, the second son of a not very successful cotton mill owner he married Caroline Harwood, daughter of the vicar of the town in 1846 and died in 1874 a rich man and owner of Riber Castle. As almost a present day Walter Mitty he was a tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor of modern times, mill owner, hydropath most eccentric, evangelist, and philanthropist. He was all these things to many people. Inheriting his father's business in 1840 by which time it had been re-established at Lea mill near Cromford he soon proved successful at adapting the cotton machinery to produce fine woollen goods. To him his workers were of prime importance for he provided them with meals, arranged overnight accommodation in the mill when the weather was bad and provided them with pills to ward off illness.

Whilst on honeymoon in Europe in 1846 an illness was to strike him which left him a nervous wreck. Such sickness has been described in many forms, - but whatever it was it had a profound and disturbing effect on him. The treatment prescribed by doctors was completely ineffective and he returned to England reluctantly resigned to infirmity for life. By chance he heard of a new cold water cure being prescribed by Dr. McLeoad of Harrogate and with nothing to lose, or so he thought, he gave it a try. The cold springs of the Yorkshire Dales nearly killed him. The poor man persevered and he returned to full health. Convinced of the water's power of recovery and the miracle of his life, he returned to Lea Mill a new man and completely dedicated in the pursuit of the new treatment for the benefit of others and ultimate praise to the Almighty for his quite remarkable recovery.

As if compelled by his miraculous recovery he left the mill to be managed by others and became an assistant to a hydropath already established in Bank Road at Matlock, who all too soon was bought out leaving John Smedley practising on his own. But even that was not enough. He designed and had built Smedley's Hydro at Matlock.

It is said that behind every great man is a good woman and in John Smedley's case this was no exception for in sickness she nursed him, in religious faith she supported him and took complete charge of the lady patients at the Hydro.

His twin convictions became intense and he chided established medical practice and orthodox religious faith to become a world authority on the water cure by virtue of his book "Smedley's Practical Hydropathy" and setting up his own renegade religion. He had his own prayer book and wrote new hymns and travelled throughout the Country on Sundays preaching sermons for his new religion becoming affectionately known as the "Prophet of the Peak".

There can be no doubt that his Hydro was a great success with patients coming from as far afield as India, China and Australia - to mention but a few. Amongst the distinguished patients were Sir Thomas Beecham, Sir Harry Lauder Ivor Novello and General Booth.

In 1862 as part of his expansion plans he designed and built Riber Castle both as a hydro and as a home, but made perhaps the biggest mistake of his life as he was quite unable to get the life line of his business - water - to the top. As such he lived at the castle, with his wife, until his death in 1874 and she until her death in 1892, after which it became a school, store dump and ultimately a zoo, a very sad end to a castle which had cost £60,000 to build.

John Smedley mellowed with age, becoming reconciled with the medical profession and the church before his death in 1874. His life viewed as a whole could only be described as a great success and whilst he was at times impulsive, aggressive and hard, it was to achieve his ambitions so resolutely set. He was extremely generous and benevolent to the poor and was

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generally well liked. The legacy of his life is still with us today for his hydro and others that followed are well in evidence. His castle remains as does his mill, hospital and churches that he founded.

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Spring Conference 1990

Women in Pharmacy

By J.G.L. Burnby

As is well known, one result of the Pharmacy Act of 1868 was the necessity to establish a register listing all those in business to dispense prescriptions containing poisons or to sell by retail scheduled poisons. The first register appeared in 1869. What is less well known is that no less than 195 of those registered were women, with more names to follow in 1870. The question immediately arises how many of these women were actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy.

It had always been the custom of London, as it was in other cities such as Norwich and Bristol, that the window of any freeman or burgess could continue his trade, craft or business. The Inland Revenue Apprenticeship records show many widows taking apprentices even in such surprising occupations as that of a shipwright. One does not suppose in this instance that the apprentice-master, or more accurately, apprentice-mistress, actually wielded the tools herself. A more likely practitioner of her craft was Isabella Carr. On 17 March 1772 she was admitted by redemption to the Freedom of the City of London; the daughter of Robert Carr of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, collier, deceased, she was free of the Company of Wheelwrights but in fact was a perfumer.[1] Margaret Pelling in her work on medical practice in 16th century Norwich writes of a woman called Alice Glavin who was undoubtedly an independent practitioner. The widow of a surgeon who had died in 1573, it is recorded in the Mayor's Book of the Poor, that Alice and several women were given sole responsibility for a number of medical cases such as healing Joan Parker's legs or curing Nicholas' wife of her infirmity.[2] Alice's son John also became a surgeon and it is likely that he served all or part of his apprenticeship with his mother.

Two hundred years later a handbill issued in Kirby Kendall informed the reader that, "By His Majesty's Royal Authority to this place is come Doctress Wood (from London) Practitioner in Physic and Midwifery." She claimed that she cured wounds in any part of the body, ulcers, cancers, the King's evil or old running sores, that she had a speedy and never-failing cure for the bloody flux and convulsion fits etc. She had, she wrote a famous medicine for the tooth-ache which cured all disorders in the mouth and gums, and another for destroying worms in young and old.[3]

To come to pharmacy itself, the *Chemist & Druggist* can give us much interesting information. For example that of 7 December 1946 (p.745) when relatng the story of Casterton's of Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, stated that the business had been founded in 1804 by the great grandmother of the owner, Walter Casterton. Again in July 1914 (p.158) a biographical sketch was given of the current British Pharmaceutical Conference president, Edward Henry Farr. Mr Farr was the owner of a country chemist's business in Uckfield, Sussex, housed in a two hundred year old building which had once been an inn, The Maiden's Head, and towards the end of the 18th century, "two maiden ladies had carried on (there) the present drug-business."

Almost any 18th or 19th century trade directory can show that women were involved in the practice of pharmacy, for example that of Bath where we have Mrs Hunt in 1819 and Mrs Webb and Mrs Perry in 1826.

John Austen in his book on the chemists and druggists of Sheffield wrote about several notable women pharmacists. There was Mrs Ann Handley who appears in the Sheffield Directory of 1774. Her husband had opened the pharmacy in 1766 but died soon afterwards, Ann however continued to practice until about 1797. Her daughter married Dr John Sterndale, friend of the sculptor Chantrey, and was an authoress of merit. Two other women pharmacists in this rapidly growing industrial town must be mentioned, Sarah Owen and Jane Wilkinson. Jane was the widow of John Wilkinson. M.R.C.S.m who had opened in 1826 a "medical and chemical respository ... for the purpose of carrying on the business of an apothecary and chemist & druggist", but who had died in 1831. She had the reputation of being a severe woman with whom one did not argue, mothers used to send their recalcitrant children to her to be dosed with rhubarb powder on their way to school.

George Owen had been the apprentice of George Hawksworth a well respected chemist & druggist of Sheffield, and then in 1826 opened his own pharmacy on West Bar Green. Eleven years later when only 39 Sarah was left to carry on the practice, this she did faithfully and successfully, attending every day from 1837 to 1852 when it was taken over by her two sons. Sarah Owen had a wide reputation for her skill in the treatment of children's ailments, mothers coming from far and wide for medicine and advice.[4]

An examination of our 1869 Register shows that many of the women listed were widows whose husbands had been members of the Pharmaceutical Society. Men such as George Chantry of Goole who was elected in 1842, or John Bates of Bicester ten years later, or John Gray of Cupar, Angus who not only became a member in 1852 but held Certificate No. 131

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to show he had passed the Society's examinations. Others of the women would seem to be involved in an informal partnership such as Jane Isabella and Joseph Hibbert of St. Helens, or Mary Ann and Robert Harris of Crickhowell.

Amongst the women of this first register are some which give us valuable information on pharmaceutical history. There was for instance, Elizabeth Beesley of Banbury, widow of Joseph who was the eldest son of Thomas (1763-1802) a druggist in that town. Joseph had been only 37 when he died in 1827 but Elizabeth continued the chemist's shop in Cornhill until 1875 when she went to live with her unmarried daughter. Her only son, another Thomas, (1818-1892) also became a pharmacist, but interestingly, after a short period in Shipping Norton returned to Banbury in 1846, not to take over his mother's pharmacy but that of his father's brother at 5 High Street. Uncle Henry and his nephew were founder members of the Pharmaceutical Soceity.[5]

Another to catch one's interest is Charlotte Congreve of Bedworth, Warwickshire, who belonged to the family of Congreve's Elixir fame. The originator of the Elixir, author of "Consumption Curable" and "The Medical Casket", Henry Congreve, (1793-1852), was the son of George Thomas, a comfortably-off apothecary and surgeon, and ardent strict baptist, of Bedworth. Henry with his second wife and their seven children emigrated to Australia in 1851 leaving behind the son of his first marriage, George Thomas III to run the wholesale chemist & druggist's concern with his partner Delisle in Cambridge Place, Hackney, in which he seems to have been very successful as he is reputed to have owned extensive property in Dulwich and left £250,000. Charlotte Congreve was the widow of George Thomas II (1792-1861) a chemist & druggist like Henry, and also a tea-dealer who remained behind in Bedworth. He died in 1861 but Charlotte although elderly was still the proprietor, if not perhaps a working proprietor, of the business at the time of the first register.[6]

Then there is Jane Thomas of Bala, Merionethshire in whom I have a special interest because she was my great grandmother. Born in 1820, the daughter of Peter Wynne, a farmer and innkeeper of Llandrillo, she was a spinster of 35 when she married William Thomas, three years her junior, a druggist of Bala. Within the next 6½ years three children, Jane Wynne, Arthur and Llywelyn Lloyd, and then William Thomas on 19th. July 1863 died after a few days illness. We have some details of the business which Jane inherited and continued to run although she must have received considerable assistance from William's assistant Edwin Williams who was living with them in 1851 and was probably still doing so.[7]

From the cash account drawn up by Jane as the executrix in 1868 we learn that the stock in trade and shop fixtures were valued at £566 by R.L. Owen, druggist of Carnarvon who had been William's apprentice-master,[8] and there was £323 in the National Provincial Bank of England, the total assets amounting to £1305. This seems a very satisfactory sum for the 1860s until one looks at the other side of the account. The funeral cost £50 the Letters of Administration, other fees and attendant expenses came to the high figure of £110, and Dr Owen Richards demanded £5, but worst of all there was £620 still out-standing on the purchase of the house and shop which William had contracted to buy only a month before his death. However, although this left only £520 to Jane and her three children, she must have been confident that she could make the payments on house and home as the contract was transferred to her in 1864.

William had produced an almanack in 1862 and from it we can determine a great deal about his stock in trade. He sold horse and cattle medicines, respirators and chest protectors, fine healthy leeches, plasters of all kinds and surgical appliances, made his own anti-bilious pills, and a compound fluid essence of sarsparilla, and Thomas's Pectoral Balsam. He had a flourishing trade in groceries, selling teas, coffees and cocoas as well as British and foreign wines. A very important line were two of his own sauces which were sold by wholesale and retail and were even exported, Thomas's Merionethshire Sauce and Tegid Sauce: a Cosmopolitan Relish. He sold F.S. Cleaver's soaps, pomades and perfumes, such as Brown Windsor, Marrow Oil Pomade, Jockey Club, Kiss-me-Quick and As you like it. He was also something of an ironmonger, as the almanack shows that he sold "R.B. Eds & Co's and Morgan Brothers celebrated preparations" which included Fire Revivers and Lighters, and a "Carburet of Iron" which was used for polishing grates and stoves. Added to which were gunpower, shot and percussion caps, blasting powder, paints, oils and colours.

Clearly he was a busy tradesman, but he had other activities and was High Bailiff of the County Court, as well as prospective Liberal candidate for Merionethshire. His diary also indicates that he held some land as he writes of his sheep, the planting of potatoes and the cow being taken to the bull.[9] His widow was successful in carrying on many of his activities and the three children received a good education; the two sons became pharmacists, though neither continued their parent's business, and the daughter became a domestic science teacher.

However, perhaps the most interesting of all the early registered women pharmacists did not appear until the list of 1870, and that is Fanny Elizabeth Potter of Kibworth, Leicestershire. Her date of registration was 5th February 1869 and it is noted that she was a chemist & druggist by virtue of passing the Society's modified examination. She was the first woman to do so but was not the only one for only six months later Catherine Hodgson Fisher of Botcherby, near Carlisle took the same step.

Fanny's father was a William Potter who had been in business as a chemist & druggist at Kibworth Beauchamp before 1 August 1868 where Fanny had acted as his assistant. It is interesting to note that William had started out as a dispenser for the Drs.

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Marriott of Kibworth, a not unusual pattern in those days.[10] William Morpott Marriott had become a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries in 1819 and an MRCS in 1820, and although he will still in the Medical Directory of 1865 he never registered under the Medical Act of 1858. The exact date is unknown but he was joined by a John Marriott who had been an MRSC since 1815. Then around 1855 the two older men were associated with John Marriott junior, LSA, MRSC.[11]

William Potter was at Kibworth Beauchamp until 1875 but the register of the following year shows him to be at nearby Fleckney, and so was daughter Fanny but she was now Mrs Deacon. Abram Deacon had started business as a draper there in Church Lane in 1861, but having acquired the village Post Office he moved to Wolsey Lane. After the death of his first wife and Fanny's marriage to him, a chemist's shop was opened within the same building. William remained on the register until 1882 and Fanny until 1930, a record of over sixty year.[12]

Women dispensers had a very staunch supporter in the person of Dr Elizabeth Garrett Anderson herself a student at the Square for a short period in 1862. The *Chemist & Druggist* on 15th April 1871 quoted her as saying, the "women were peculiarly suited to the occupation and that hundreds had already done it for husbands and fathers. At St Mary's Dispensary four or five women had been trained and they had been found apt and careful pupils. The first pupil had held the situation of Dispenser for the last five years at £40 a year and had given great satisfaction. She finished by saying, "It was not a previously untried experiment for in the last census 388 women were returned as chemists & druggists and 243 as manufacturing chemists. Most were probably only carrying on the business of a dead father or husband by means of a male assistant, but some are conducting the work themselves and doing the work of the head of the establishment."

As Miss Dorothy Jones pointed out even if women were not eligible for membership of the Pharmaceutical Soceity until 1879, "...women were never excluded from its examinations, and they have always been eligible to take them. From that standpoint the Pharmaceutical Society has a creditable record compared with other examining bodies."[13] The President of the Society remarked at the 84th opening session of the Society's School of Pharmacy in 1925 that there were 18,526 pharmacists on the register, of whom 1,200 or 6.5% were women. There had been five Pereira medallists, seven Redwood scholars, five Jacob Bell scholars and fifteen Burroughs scholars amongst them, and in the current session four women and fifteen men were taking the Advanced course, and eleven women and twelve men engaged on the Elementary course.[14]

Today, 65 years and another war later, women students well exceed the men in numbers.

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4. J. Austen, *Old Sheffield Druggists*, Sheffield, J.W. Northend, 1961, pp. 13, 30, 33.
5. B. Adkins, "The Beesley family of Alcester and Banbury", *Cake & Cockhorse*, vol.8, 1981, pp.190-192. Henry wrote *The Druggists' Receipt Book*, and Thomas (V) was a meteorologist of note, whilst Joseph and Henry's brother, Samuel, was a baker made the famous Banbury Cakes at the 'Original Cake Shop'.
6. For most of this information I am indebted to Mrs Jean Haynes (nee Congreve) of Harpenden.
7. 1861 Census for Bala. Edwin Williams was 26 and hailed from Pentrevoelas which had also been the home of William Thomas.
8. An apprenticeship of five years was entered into on 30th June 1837 and the signatures are of William Thomas, shopkeeper of Pentre Voelas, his son William Thomas, and Richard Lewis Owen, chemist & druggist of Caernarvon. There was apparently no premium due.
9. The diary, almanack, apprenticeship papers and accounts in Mrs Jane Thomas's name are in the writer's possession.
10. Among a list of 800 names who were admitted to the Pharmaceutical Chemists' Register set up as a result of the 1852 Pharmacy Act either received their training from doctors or acted as their dispensers.
11. In 1850 John Marriott was on the Poor Law Medical Staff for the Market Harborough Union District No.5. Jonathan Jesson in a letter to Lord Feilding dated December 1889 but harking back to the 1850s, indicates that Dr Marriott (without specifying which) gave considerable help to those in dire distress. See "From Poverty to Security: a story of 19th century Endeavour", *The Leicestershire Historian*, 1973, vol.2, pp.28, 30, 32.
12. For most of this information I am indebted to Mrs Wigginton of Fleckney who had garnered many of the details from Mrs Kendrick (in 1986) from Fanny Deacon's grand daughter.
13. D.M. Jones, "Progress of Women in Pharmacy", *Chem. Drugg.*, 10 Nov. 1959, p.185
14. *Chem. Drugg.*, 10 Oct. 1925, p.515.

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Diary Dates

1990

September 12
British Pharmaceutical Conference, Cardiff,
BSHP Session –
Dr. Tom Davies – "Welsh Witches"
Mr. T.D. Turner – The pharmacy of the physicians of Myddfaii

November 13
Dr. Jane O'Hara-May – "Tempt the Invalid: Some Changes in Feeding Practices"

1991

February 13
Mr W.A. Jackson – "Guaranteed to Cure! Inventions for Healing"

March 13
The Foundation Lecture. Mr K. Holland – "The Devoted Industry: Origins and Development of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry"

April 5-7
BSHP Spring Conference – Ibis Hotel, Greenwich. Conference includes papers by invited speakers on pharmacy in the 1840s. Members will be able to see some historical sites in Greenwich and also 17 Bloomsbury Square. Application and registration forms will be issued later in 1990.

Book Review

Zur Geschichte der subkutanen Injektionen und Injectabilia in der zweiten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts. Gottfried Schramm. Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, Stuttgart, 1987. pp.297. Illus.

This book covers an exceptionally full discussion of the discovery and dissemination of subcutaneous injection therapy in the second half of the 19th. century. Dr Schramm briefly mentions the work of Felice Fontanas of Florence (1730-1805) in toxicology and pharmacology which had led him to the subcutaneous application of poisons and medicines, in particular viper venom, and later, in Paris, the more systematic studies of Claude Bernard.

Most authorities are agreed that the first to introduce subcutaneous medication was the Irish surgeon Francis Rynd (1803-1861) in Dublin. However there is no doubt that the first systematic steps to develop the new technique took place with the original work of Alexander Wood (1817-1884) of Edinburgh. He was the first, in November 1853, to use a true hypodermic syringe.

The development of the hypodermic syringe is discussed, as is the preparation of solutions for injection using soluble hypodermic tablets. Vehicles for the medicaments also receive attention, ranging from Battley's Sedative Solution (used by Wood) to sherry wine, glycerin sweet oil and water; much advocated for a time was cherry laurel water.

The use of the ampoule appears to have been initiated by the work of the French pharmacist Stanilas Limousin, (1831-1887). This in turn led to the recognition of the problems of stability and keeping properties, and the necessity for sterilising injection fluids. Is also came to be realised that the glass should be non-reactive. Full acknowledgement is given to those hospital pharmacists who were engaged on this essential work. The first official work published on the sterilisation of subcutaneous injections occurs in the supplement to the French codex of 1895.

There is a separate section on the history of subcutaneous mercury therapy in syphilis between 1865 and 1900. Calomel appears to have been used by Berkeley Hill by 1866, two years later Clemens Boeses of Marburg tried the sublimate.

There is no doubt that the history of subcutaneous injections in all its aspects has here been dealt with comprehensively, and furthermore the book is blessed with an excellent bibliography and two indexes.

J.B.

1848

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The Historic Photographs Collection of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

By Nigel Tallis

In 1986 a major project was undertaken by the museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to document and conserve the largely uncatalogued historical photographs collection as a pilot scheme for the retrospective documentation of the entire museum collection. The photographic collection is a relatively small, but growing, archive of some 12,000 items, consisting of over 8000 different photographic images in a variety of formats and processes. It contains both negative and positive colour and monochrome material and includes daguerreotypes, gelatin, albumen, and carbon prints, collodion and gelatin glass plate negatives, lantern slides, and colour transparencies. It is only comparatively recently that the value of phorographic images as a largely untapped historical resource has become fully appreciated, and during the course of the cataloguing project it became clear that the collection contained some fine examples of work produced by several noted early photographers. Other images highlighted the significant contributions made by chemists and druggists to the development of photography – as illustrated by an extremely rare example of Swan's improved Carbon process (fig. 1).

The majority of these images are original and unique, augmenting the Society's other archives to form a significant, and in many ways unrivalled, historical record. They not only illustrate the great changes in all aspects of pharmacy in Britain over the previous 140 years, but also provide abundant details of costume, topography, and technology, with frequent allusions to wider social historical developments. Used with care photographic images can challenge notions of the past. It is particularly instructive in this respect to compare the familiar image of Jacob Bell, founder of the Pharmaceutical Society, as in the oil painting by Sir Edwin Landseer, completed after only an hour's sitting three days before Bell's death in June 1859 (fig. 2) with an original Daguerreotype portrait by J E Mayall showing a confident and perhaps slightly sardonic Bell taken c1852/3 (fig. 3).

Many pharmaceutical businesses profited through photography, supplying chemicals and apparatus. Others specialised in improving and inventing new processes, of which the firm of John Mawson and Joseph Wilson Swan, later Sir Joseph Wilson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne was only the most strikingly successful. The latest advances in photography were regularly demonstrated at the Society's annual *Conversatzione* at its Headquarters in Bloomsbury Square. However, despite the early interest displayed by many leading members of the Pharmaceutical Society, funds do not appear to have been available for official or commemorative Society photographs. It was not until the early 1860s, when the Society apparently commissioned a series of high quality albumen prints recording the appearance of Presidents, council members and Society employees, that this interest was practically expressed. At the same time collections of *carte-de-visite* portrait photographs of beneficiaries of the Jacob Bell Memorial Scholarships and annuitants of the Society's Benevolent Fund were initiated, the former assiduously maintained from 1861 to the 1960s, the latter from the 1870s until 1937. The Benevolent Fund archive is somewhat bizarre in concept and content: that a recipient, acknowledged to be in severe financial difficulties should be asked to provide a portrait photograph for the Society's archives seems now scarcely credible!

In the later 19th century the Society began to use photographs in promotional material for its' School of Pharmacy, and to provide mementoes for staff and students, many of which survive in the collection: some amusingly sycophantic Cabinet portraits of favourite members of staff and School group photographs from the 1860s to the late 1940s. Photographs of the Society's Headquarters buildings in Bloomsbury Square began with an 1883/4 series taken after renovations to the building, and further sets were produced in 1928 and 1932. High quality photographs taken by members of staff, especially by T E Wallis, amply document the building until the Society's departure for Lambeth in the mid 1970s. From the early years of this century, following the developments in photomechanical processes, a major part of the archive was derived from photographs illustrating the *Pharmaceutical Journal,* and a smaller number from the *Chemist and Druggist.* These include several surviving original boards of camera-ready copy.

The other source of photographic material was through private donations from members and pharmaceutical businesses. Representative of these are some rather incomplete and admittedly selective firms' collections, notably from John Bell & Croyden (with groups from 1871 and 1914), Heppell's & Co. (1912), Maw (1920s) and Steedman's (1920s-1950s). In the 1950s the Society's History of Pharmacy Committee, later to evolve into the British Society for the History of Pharmacy, made a determined and crucial effort to procure exterior photographs of surviving old-established and traditional pharmacies.

Cataloguing of the Historical Photographs collection was chosen as a pilot scheme for the museum's documentation system as a whole because of the complexities of cataloguing pictorial material, and photographs in particular. Having determined that a comprehensive manual card-based system would involve the creation of over 250,000 catalogue

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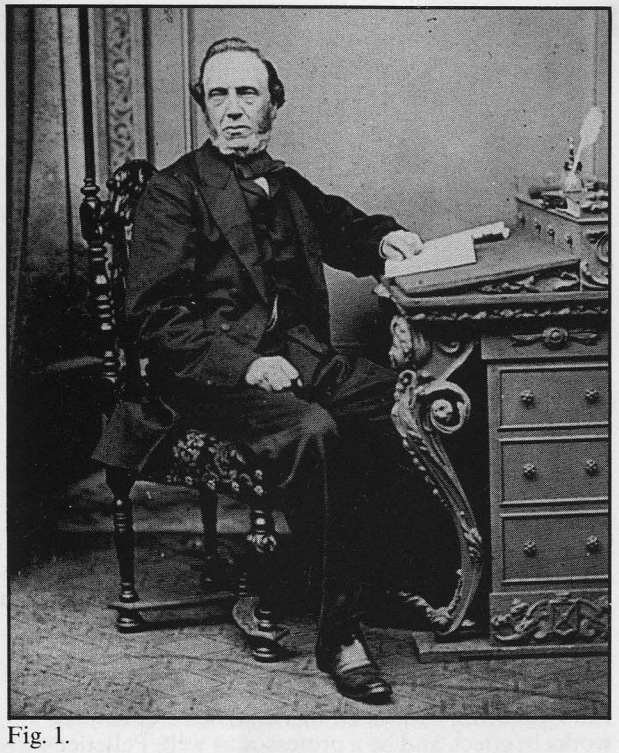

Fig. 1.

cards, a quite unmanageable number, it was decided to adopt a computerised approach.

Each image in the collection was assigned an unique museum number, images were catalogued according to image content using our own simple classification system. Selected records can be viewed on screen or printed-out from the computer database in a variety of formats by museum staff.

Of all museum objects, photographic material is probably the most sensitive to adverse environmental conditions. Therefore each print, negative or lantern slide has been enclosed in a wrapper and stored in classified order in acid-free boxes in metal stove-enamelled cabinets. Prints are backed and supported with cotton rag board, and enclosed in transparent, chemically inert polyester sleeves. Negative material and lantern slides are wrapped in special archival quality enclosures and then boxed; hazardous nitrate stock has been copied and removed from the collection. Rather than dismantle highly acidic photograph albums, and therefore lose some of their historical context, album pages were interleaved with unbuffered acid and sulphur-free paper, before boxing each album.

The result of this project has been a greatly improved access to an ordered, classified and computer-catalogued collection, archivally stored. This has enabled the museum to offer a photographic copying service for members and researchers, and has greatly facilitated the production of museum publications and enhanced the utility of this historical resource.

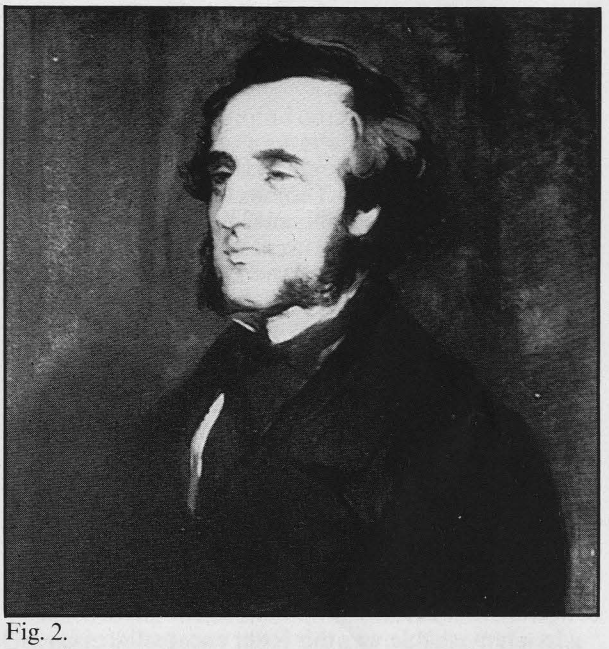

Fig. 2.

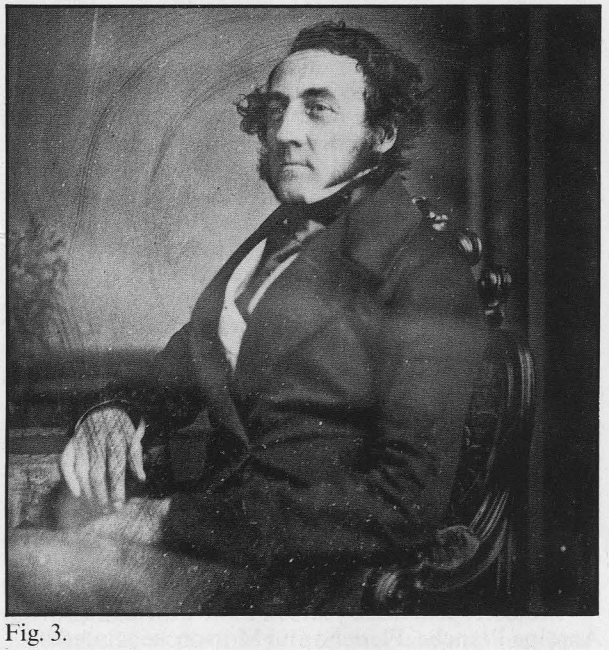

Fig. 3.

Fig 1. Carbon print of John Mawson, c1863

Fig 2. Oil portrait of Jacob Bell by Sir Edwin Landseer, 1859

Fig 3. Daguerreotype portrait of Bell by Mayall. Though originally a Yorkshireman, Mayall had been a Daguerreotypist in the United States of America before returning to Britain. Since American Daguerreotype plates were machine-polished their superior finish gave American photographers a great advantage over their British counterparts. Mayall was acknowledged as the best Daguerreotypist in this country, a reputation reflected in the quality of this example.

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T.N.R. Morson and his Scientific Friends

By A.F.P. Morson

Delivered to his pharmacy at 19 Southampton Row in April 1840 was a letter to Thomas N.R. Morson from St. Petersburg, written by Nicolai Witt. I have no idea who Witt was. It is clear, however, from his letter that he had come to London and then to Paris to learn how pharmacy was being organised; he had returned to the then capital of Russia to take up a Government post. More important to us are his references to Morson's life in Southampton Row. He hopes Morson has received the letter, samples and parcel of books which he despatched for Pelouze and asks that Morson remembers him to Messrs. Solly, Bennett, Giles & White. He sends his good wishes to the family and hopes that Morson's fair daughters enjoyed the Russian music. He encloses samples of Siberian minerals for Morson's collection and finishes with a request for a sample of aconitin to add to a friend's collection of alkaloids.

In a remarkable way this letter encapsulates my theme for it demonstrates the range of Morson's contacts, his deep interest in science and his close family life.

By 1840, Morson has been in an increasingly successful business for some twenty years and had a thriving social and scientific life in Bloomsbury whose population of course included the staff of the British Museum, London University and the many lawyers, and medical men who lived in, Russell, Bloomsbury, Queen and other squares. At this time his children were in their 'teens; his elder son was learning his trade at the Pharmacie Beral in Paris and the two elder girls were attending the lectures at the Royal Institution – a pointer to progressive views which extended to matters other than education.

There is no difficulty in recognising the reason for the mention of Pelouze. One of the established and eminent men, referred to in 1833 by Robiquet as "a young chemist of well recognised merit" so much so that he was a professor when aged 23; and was later to be President of the French Mint. He was also invited to be a Honorary Member of the Pharmaceutical Society and he was a friend of Liebig.

Morson spent three years in Paris with Louis Antoine Planche. Planche and Morson, separated by 23 years in age, formed a lasting liaison based upon a mutual interest in chemistry – particularly manufacturing. Both ran pharmacies and chemical factories, which included making alkaloids recently discovered in Paris. Thus they were at the beginning of the industry; after all the preparation of alkaloids is the basis on which the manufacture of organic products was developed. The scientific liaisons were maintained over a long period by his frequent visits and attendance at meetings of learned societies in Paris as well as entertaining those French and some German chemists who travelled to London.

When Morson went to Paris he was 19 years old. His capabilities must have been clear to these great men of European science, who welcomed him to their laboratories and technical discoveries – one or two, like Pelletier saw it as a business opportunity, but then he was a shrewd operator in this sphere. Other important men were Boudet, Robiquet and Henry.

Felix Boudet, the son of a pharmacist, was one of the most distinguished, becoming Professor at the School of Pharmacy. Among his achievements was a huge contribution to the runnning of the *Journal de Pharmacie.* Both Morson and Bell consulted Boudet, who was visited on Morson's many trips to Paris to consult him about the running of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* and the Society.

Morson's first commercial success came with quinine. He used Henry's process, publishing the details soon after he started his business in 1821. Henry demonstrated the process at the Pharmacie Centrale and operated on a scale second only to Pellerier. The French pharmacists were permitted to run a pharmacy, to which was attached a chemical works in effect, and be a professor as well. Pelletier announced his discovery of quinine in September 1820 when Morson was in Paris. He became its largest manufacturer. He was certainly the most famous of Morson's French colleagues.

Their purely scientific contacts included membership of French scientific bodies and also Pelletier's visits for both this and business purposes to London. It was on one of these occasions in about 1835, that he wrote from Finsbury Square to Faraday, at the Royal Institution asking for an appointment and sending samples of three new opiate alkaloids, one discovered by Robiquet, one by Couerbe and one by himself. The letter does not specify them, but the date would suggest that they were Codeine, Meconine and Nareine, respectively (1832). It is probable that he wanted Britain's most famous scientist to hear at first hand of their achievement.

Perhaps the most important influence on Morson's early career was that of Michael Faraday. Born in 1791 and so eight years older than Morson, they first met about 1815. Faraday was lecturing to the City Philosophical Society. To a teenage apprentice with a bent towards chemistry, Faraday must have been stimulating as well as very impressive. Morson, after losing his parents, only sister and his master at this time, accepted his advice to complete his chemical education in Paris. The two formed a lifelong friendship. In 1821 Faraday introduced Morson to the R.S.A. and then in 1831 was, with Brande and E.R. Daniell, his sponsor for membership of the R.I.

When he introduced medicinal creosote, Morson gave Faraday some which the great man recorded in the Institution's Minutes as a beautiful sample, later

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testing it for magnetic properties just as he tested several hundred other compounds. Faraday relied upon Morson for the supply of many chemicals to test the effect of electricity upon them. Just as Morson supplied these, Tennant supplied geological and mineral substances for similar work. Tennant was well-known in London, not only as a supplier, but because of his extensive collection and was another of Morson's friends, living in Bloomsbury. He exhibited a case of minerals at an evening meeting of the PSGB in 1850.

Faraday records that, one evening in September 1850, he saw from Queen Square, where Morson had just moved, a balloon which had risen from Vauxhall Gardens. Faraday wrote that the sun was so bright that he could not see the basket, and that when ballast was discharged, the sun's rays were deflected, leading him to speculate what experiments might be conducted by pouring sand or brick dust out of the basket and observing the dispersion of the sun's rays.

Morson obtained the use, for a Pharmaceutical Society evening meeting, of Faraday's famous electro magnet. What is perhaps less well-known is that the Society had one of its own. Whether purchased or more probably assembled at Morson's suggestion as chairman of the Society's Scientific Committee, I know not; but Faraday spend several days using the Society's magnet at Bloomsbury Square in August 1848.

Some of the members of the Scientific Committee seem to have been selected by Morson from among his friends, not that they were other than highly qualified, for they were W.T. Brande, Director of Apothecaries Hall, J.F. Daniell, Gray, Graham, Owen, Horsfield and Bowerbank. Their expertise covers a fascinating range:- chemistry, electricity, zoology, botany, anatomy, microscopy - and all of them Fellows of the Royal Society, with important and original work achieved, so that they were figures on the European Scientific stage .In the cases of Graham and Owen their reputations are historic. That these men knew one another was a reflection of the fact that the scientific community was a small one and it was possible to take an interest in several sciences, the body of knowledge being smaller than today.

Before we leave Faraday and the R.I., let us recall that as soon as he was a member, Morson's friends put him on the Management Committee. In his usual manner, he worked hard at this and was an assiduous attender of meetings. He was on the Committee at the time in 1843 that Dr. Gardner and J. Lloyd Bullock were proposing that the R.I. should establish a School of Chemistry, one effect of which would have been to alter the direction of the R.I.'s activity towards education at the expense of research. Gardner and Bullock had both been to Liebig's laboratory at Giessen.

In the end Gardner and Bullock must have overplayed their hand for the proposal was rejected, they having earned themselves the reputation of wanting to control the School, thus preventing the R.I. from having direct influence over it.

The proposal came to fruition two years later with the establishement of the Royal College of Chemistry, but Gardner and Bullock's services were not used for long.

It is apposite to remind ourselves that in the 1840's, chemistry was seen as a catalyst for change. Pharmacists particularly, followed quickly by the rest of the medical profession, led the use of chemistry to solve problems of health and hygiene. There were those who thought that it was being used as a lever for Chemists & Druggists to obtain professional status (and why not?). The setting of standards had the effect of improving practice and of advancing knowledge, but also to keep out the many unauthorised and unreliable practitioners that there were in the 1840's.

In the first half of the 19th Century, the advance of science made it possible for the first time for a man to earn his living from it, so the rich men who had treated it as a hobby and who had controlled institutions like the R.S.A. and R.I., many of them also F.R.S's, no doubt resented the rise of this middle class. The amateurs had also provided much of the money which had enabled such institutions to survive.

Science did mean something rather different in Georgian & Regency times than to us. Some reference to what was understood by the term is contained in a paper written by another friend, J.F. Daniell, who invented the electric cell of his name. He typified the privately educated man of independent means who took up science as a hobby. So successful was he that, in 1831, he was invited to turn his amusement into a job as the first Professor of Chemistry at King's College with which the P.S.G.B. had close contacts in the persons of Forbes and not least Bentley, who was the Professor of Botany and became the School of Pharmacy's Professor of Materia Medica. Earlier Daniell was a contributor to that wonderfully named Society for the Distribution of Useful Knowledge for which he wrote the Treatise on Chemistry. He was one of the first Honorary M.P.S. Daniell thought that science consisted of three classes:

Numbers and quantity - Mathematics
Matter - Natural Philosophy
Mind - Moral Philosophy

He wrote of the "objects, advantages and pleasures of science" pointing out that 'there is hardly any trade or occupation in which useful lessons may not be learn't by studying one science or another:' that all sounds naive to us.

Daniell was the first to introduce some science into the management of greenhouses, an achievement recognised by the Horticultural Society with a medal. He was close to Faraday and also to Jonathan Pereira, who wrote to him saying that he was obtaining some chemicals they needed from France. Pereira, who in his biographer's words, deserves lasting credit for placing the knowledge and use of drugs, which had been chaotic and empirical, on an organised and scientific basis, consulted Morson on such matters writing on one occasion that he was waiting for Morson's views on potassium bromide from Normandy.

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Another, and very close friend is the first man named in Witt's letter. Richard Horsman Solly whom Morson met soon after moving to Bloomsbury. Once again Solly typified the rich man dedicated to science. He inherited a house in Great Ormond Street, just around the corner from Morson's in Southampton Row. He also inherited a fortune from his uncle. He went to Cambridge, obtaining an M.A. and then became a lawyer, though he did not practice, preferring an active life in the R.I., Linnaean and Royal Science of Arts giving encouragement to others. He became F.R.S. in 1807.

It was his chemical friends with whom Morson had the most intimate contact. None was more important than Thomas Graham, who was Professor of Chemistry at University College. He and his sister, who kept house for him, were frequent dinner guests at Queen Square. Graham was recognised by his colleagues as an outstanding chemist. He died in 1869, after a great teaching career and making contributions to various branches of chemistry, chiefly colloids and the diffusion of gases. He was Master of the Mint, a founder and first President of the Chemical Society and of the short-lived Cavendish Society.

It was one of Graham's pupils, George Fownes, who was selected to be the first Professor of Chemistry of the young Pharmaceutical Society. He also held the Chair of Chemistry at Birkbeck. In 1842, he was invited to give six lectures at the Royal Institution. Between 1845-49 he had several papers published by the Royal Society, of which he was a Fellow in 1845. He was a brilliant man whose work in organic chemistry was outstanding. It was he who saw on one of Morson's shelves a dark viscid fluid which had been given to Morson by a chemist names Jones. It was the result of digesting bran in sulphuric acid. Fownes was given the sample, named it Furfurol and found its formula. He went on to do further work on this and later made and identified an alkaloid to which he gave the name, Furfurine. Thus he anticipated a great deal of work on synthesising alkaloids.

Fownes suffered from tuberculosis which caused his very early death at the age of 34. It is remarkable that he achieved so much in a short life plagued by illness. Fownes died in 1849, having retired as Professor at the School of Pharmacy in 1846. It was no doubt a great blow to Morson whose influence had obtained the post at the Pharmaceutical Society for him. He was not replaced, the functions being incorporated into those of the Professor of Pharmacy, Theophilus Redwood.

Fownes was succeeded at University College by one of the most influential chemists of the 19th Century. Alexander Williamson was Professor of Practical Chemistry and proceeded to demonstrate the application of his research work to everyday needs. For instance, he licensed his process for scammony which was a commercial success. When (1860) Mathiesson, a protege at St. Mary's showed promise, Williamson arranged that Morson should supply quantities of narcotine for the establishment of its structure. Several papers were published in 1860-63 by the Royal Society which described working out the structure of opiate alkaloids. What is also interesting about this work on narcotine, however, is his comment in 1863 that the samples of narcotine prepared by Morson with what Williamson noted was 'scrupulous care', resulted from the "huge quantities of opium" that Morson was processing – a confirmation that there was large-scale production at Hornsey at that time and a contradiction of the impression that the Scottish firms had completely taken over the trade in opiates.

Morson's interest in the formation of London University started in the 1820's and he must have watched the effect of its fortunes on the careers of several of his friends and, with his liberal views, disapproved strongly of the resistance of the academic establishment, the London Medical Schools and some in the Church of England, to the formation of a University welcoming all without religious bias.

Among these friends was Odling, who succeeded Faraday at the R.I. in 1868 and later went on to Oxford. He was a major contributor to techniques of water analysis, a most important matter during the creation of piped water supplies and this extended to his becoming an expert in the purification of rivers.

Contacts in the European scientific world extended from Paris to Germany at an early stage in Morson's life. There are several references to him in the letters of Heinrich Rose, to Faraday. Rose's importance lay in his contributions to chemistry as the discoverer of Niobium, Tantalum and other rare metals. He was an F.R.S. and addressed the British Association on several occassions. He was Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Berlin University from 1835-64. When Morson visited Berlin, c.1830 Rose introduced him to Poggendorf, who subsequently came to England in 1832 as part of his tour of Europe to investigate chemical production. One of his visits being to see Morson's manufacture and, no doubt, to discuss other visits with him. He published Morson's process for aconitin in his *Annalen* in 1837 when the Journal was first established. They also shared an interest in geology. Morson's friendship with Heinrich Rose extended later to his younger brother, Wilhelm. There is an interesting letter dated 1862 about Wilhelm's return journey to Berlin after a visit to Morson and it includes the expression of some views about the German Government which would have caused difficulties had they been expressed openly.

Mitscherlich, fellow student of Heinrich Rose, was another German chemist who travelled extensively in Europe to see large-scale chemical operations.

By far the most famous of Morson's foreign visitors at that time was Leibig. He, like Mitscherlich, was an Hon. M.P.S. There is no need for me to detail the work of this father of organic analysis and contributor to so many new chemical techniques. Morson and Liebig were in the habit of walking the hundred yards or so across Bloomsbury Square from Morson's house to visit the School of Pharmacy and to discuss problems of chemical education and the facilities required,

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matters in which both men were involved.

The other men named in Witt's letter are Bennett, Giles and White. I have been unable to trace Giles; White was a chemical manufacturer in North London whose firm, many years later, was taken over by Burgoyne, Burbidges. He was also a botanist and a Fellow of the Linnaean Society. his friendship with Solly is confirmed by his being an executor of Solly's Will.

Bennett was the John Joseph Bennett of fame in the Natural History Department of the British Museum. He had trained as a doctor but never practised. This was not uncommon in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Such training was sometimes seen as a means and not an end in itself, rather as young people might study history today and then become accountants. In addition, medicine in the early 19th Century was one of the few professions through which a man could alter his social status.

Bennett was Robert Brown's emanuensis and later his executor. Robert Brown was Keeper of the Banksian Collection and President of the Linnaean Society. It was he who investigated evaporation and it is to him we owe the discovery of what is known as Brownian Movement. Morson's friendship with Bennett started some years before the foundation of the Pharmaceutical Society, which benefited in 1856 from the gift by Bennett of no less than 300 specimens from Brown's collection of Materia Medica.

Morson was interested on botany, in an age when attendance at scientific meetings was a social as well as a technical occasion – and many men held scientific evenings in their houses. Those with large rooms did not bother with invitations, just letting it be known which day was theirs for holding open house.

One such very popular and regular function was held in their home by Mr. & Mrs. John Gray. Mrs. Gray was an accomplished conchologist and algolist. She was some twelve years older than her husband who was the son of the great surgeon apothecary S.F. Gray, famous for Gray's Supplement to the Pharmacopaeia; John Edward trained as an apothecary but turned his attention to Botany and Zoology. He was refused Fellowship of the Linnaean Society, to their everlasting discredit, on petty grounds concerning his father not whole-heartedly embracing Linnaean nomenclature. Years later when he was world famous he accepted the Society's invitation – a remarkable act of forgiveness.

Early in his career, in 1816, he was an Assistant in a Surgeon Apothecary's shop in Brick Lane, Shoreditch. He used to recall how he dispensed to mothers, who came from all parts of London, a treacly opium syrup, which they made up and stored in a barrel. So it became known as the stuff out of a barrel, and then "stuffout" for short. His only comment was: "I fear it poisoned many children."

He was a prolific writer; there are about 1500 papers which he published. In fact he went into print about everything, in contrast to Bennett who disliked writing papers for publication. Earlier mention was made of Horsfield's membership of the P.S.G.B's scientific committee. This was at Pereira's suggestion because of his knowledge of the plants of India and the East Indies. He was an American physician who came to Britain in 1820 as Keeper of the East India Company's Museum after working for them in the East. Horsfield was one of Morson's sponsors for Fellowship of the Linnaean Society.

Another very famous friend was Richard Owen, whom Humboldt described as the greatest anatomist of the 19th Century. He was conservator at the Royal College of Surgeons for over 30 years and his influence on their Museum can be seen today. It was he, with Bowerbank, who founded the Microscopical Society. He is described as a tall man with great glittering eyes.

Morson's long-lasting friendships with scientists were matched by a loyalty over many years to the Institutions of which he was a member. This was especially true of the Royal Society of Arts; this institution was the vehicle chosen for the running of the Great Exhibition of 1851 which symbolised the burgeoning success of the middle class. Apart from his success in gaining a prize medal, Morson's relationship with other scientists was reinforced. One of these was Lyon Playfair whose contribution to the education of scientists in Great Britain, to the success of the 1851 Exhibition and other great achievements need not be chronicled here. Hardly less eminent was Henry Bence Jones. Both these men joined Morson's circle of scientific friends. Bence Jones was Faraday's biographer and an eminent scientist himself, writing a text book in 1857 on the Chemistry of Urine. He had studied with Liebig and Graham; worked under Fownes, whose Manual of Elementary Chemistry he edited after Fownes' death and was one of the first medical men to value chemistry as an aid in the explanation and cure of disease.

Among these great men was a lesser light – John Peter Gassiot. He was a scion of an Anglo-Portuguese family whose wealth came from satisfying the English penchant for fortified wines, especially at a time when they travelled rather better than claret. Gassiot left the Royal Navy to indulge his scientific interest. In 1846 it was he who demonstrated to the Pharmaceutical Society Faraday's apparatus for the magnetisation of light. He helped Faraday in various ways with his experiments in this field.

Morson was among those people who were invited to be photographed by Maull & Polyblank under a scheme (the Literary & Scientific Portrait Club), started by J.S. Bowerbank in 1854; one of the men on Morson's Scientific Committee and among other achievements, the co-founder of the Microscopical Society. One of his minor achievements was the cultivation of a varigated marigold, seed of which he presented to Morson in 1862. I have been unable to trace such a plant in the Gardeners' Chronicle of that time.

The R.S.A. attracted another of Morson's friends, Antoine Claudet. He was the first to exploit Daguerre's patent and showed many views of the 1851 Exhibition to the Pharmaceutical Society at an

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evening party having five years earlier shown the members Daguerrotypes of Brande, Faraday and Heinrich Rose, who was present. He made great strides in the improvement of lenses, of promoting stereoscopic photography; work recognised by an F.R.S. He became photographer to Queen Victoria. Before the invention of photography caused him to change his career he was a glass merchant, inventing the machine for cutting glass tubing which, essentially unchanged, is in use today. He it was who supplied the School of Pharmacy with its glass – whether for windows, shelving, laboratory, even those glass domes used to protect specimens from dust and the atmosphere. Morson supplied him with his chemicals, especially collodion when that process was invented in 1853. When Morson received a complaint from an Australian customer about the quality of his collodion, he was swift to reject it, pointing out that Claudet used no-one else's product and "none that is not months old."

I have mentioned Bowerbank's efforts to collect albums of photographs of eminent men. He presented a collection of 250 to Prince Albert in 1854. It included portraits of Deane & Squire as well as Morson; it has not survived in the collections at Windsor Castle. Bowerbank was a distiller, mainly of non-potable solvents, and was therefore well-known as a major supplier to pharmacists of turpentine, spirits of wine and all the rest. He and his brother inherited the family business, the latter ran the business and J.S. spent nearly all his time as an amateur scientist, organiser and supporter of learned societies. He kept open house at Islington on Tuesdays for scientific meetings, except when he and his wife spent the winter at their house in St. Leonard's-on-Sea. He was the greatest expert on sponges making a huge collection of specimens which his wife mounted on tablets.

It was Bowerbank's misfortune that one of his papers submitted for publication to the Royal Society was referred to Professor Busk of Linnaean Society fame. Busk was deliberately slow and infuriated Bowerbank with his comments. Eventually Bowerbank wrote to the Royal Society's secretary pointing out that Busk was ignorant of the subject. What was in fact happening was that Busk was being obstructive because Bowerbank, in his capacity as Treasurer of the Ray Society, had accused Busk, Huxley and Lubbock of misappropriating £1,000 of the Society's money. He must have felt he was on goods grounds to accuse three of the most eminent men of the day and write to the secretary saying that he had been "in hot contest" with them.

I have left till last Morson's friends among physicians. There must have been a large number of these who were prescribing his products or knew him for his contribution to the supply of goods medicines. Without such a reputation he would never have had the posthumous honour of several column inches of obituary in The Lancet, departing as they wrote at the time, from their usual practice. Bell in 1859 had only a mention and I have not found an obituary notice of any other pharmacist.

By far the most famous friend amongst physicians was Alfred Swaine Taylor. He was one of the greatest figures in European medical jurisprudence; he was a pupil of Orfila whom Morson met in Paris on several occasions. He was an honorary M.P.S. With Brande, he was the author in 1862 of a textbook on chemistry. He suggested the use of calcium hyposulphate as a fixer to improve Fox Talbot's invention of photography by the negative/positive process, an instance of the wide range of subjects which a man would pursue in the middle of the 19th Century.

Henry Roots was the Morson family's physician living in Russell Square. His contribution to clinical teaching at Guy's is famous. He used some of Morson's new substance in what we would call clinical trials; one involved the use of creosote for the cure of pulmonary tuberculosis; unsuccessful, although in some patients it had afforded a little relief. More important to Morson was his early use of quinine sulphate.

Concerned in these experiments was Dr. John Elliotson, another widely-known physician who published his clinical experiences in July 1823. In 1831 he was Professor of the Practice of Medicine at London University. A great deal of his time and energy was spent in the establishment of University College Hospital. Elliotson used Morson's hydrocyanic acid writing about its use in many cases of stomach disorders. He also had a large private practice and among his patients was Thackeray, also an acquaintance of Morson's. Thackeray expressed his thanks to Elliotson by dedicating Pendennis to him.

(To be concluded)

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Contents

Diary Dates

1991

February 13
Mr W.A. Jackson – "Guaranteed to cure! Inventions for Healing". Joint meeting with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain †

March 13
The Foundation Lecture. Mr K. Holland – "The Devoted Industry: Origins and Development of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry". Admission by ticket only (free). †

April 5-7
BSHP Spring Conference – Ibis Hotel, Greenwich. Conference includes papers by invited speakers on pharmacy in the 1840s. Members will be able to see some historical sites in Greenwich and also 17 Bloomsbury Square. Application and registration forms will be issued later in 1990.

May 1
Miss E.R. Lewis – "Mr Earl's Medical Shop" – some 18th century fittings from a Winchester Pharmacy. †

May 22
Afternoon visit to Kew Gardens, London. The Materia Medica collection. (Details to be confirmed).

September 12
British Pharmaceutical Conference at Liverpool.

† Meetings to be held at R P S G B,
Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.
Commencing at 6.30pm. Coffee and biscuits 6.00pm.

International Congress

The First International Congress on the Great Maritime Discoveries and World Health was held in Lisbon 10 September to 13. September 1990 at the invitation of the *Escola Nacional de Saude Publica* and the *Ordem dos Medicos.* Of particular interest to pharmacists was the section dealing with the economic aspects of the drug trade both before and in the aftermath of these maritime discoveries. To this section, Dr.J. Burnby, committee member of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy, contributed a paper entitled, "The East Indian Drug Trade and British Dominion in the 18th. century." In this communication she showed that the trade in pepper, at one time used medicinally as well as a conditment, was so important that great efforts were made to retain and expand dominion in the island of Sumatra. Debarred from trading in the Spice Islands by the Dutch who had a monopoly in nutmegs, mace, cloves and cinnamon, the East India Company endeavoured to encourage the cultivation of these spices. To this end they sent out to Sumatra both the sons of Philip Miller, the famous gardener and curator of the London Apothecaries' Chelsea Physick Garden.

Under the section "Institution for Health Care", Dr Joao Rocha Pita of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Coimbra gave a paper on the apothecary's shop and the role it played in medical care. He outlined the importance of a document dating back to 1449 which regulated the practice of pharmacy. Some claim that examinations for those wishing to follow a pharmaceutical career already existed in 1392, but Dr Rocha Rita pointed out that there was no proof of this. The same speaker spoke on "The Influence of New Drugs in Therapeutics", emphasising the important role that cinchona, coca, jalap and sarsaparilla came to play in western medicine.

To the Anglo-Saxons undoubtedly the most exciting paper was that of Surgeon Vice Admiral Sir James Watt, "Medical Aspects of the Long Maritime Voyages". Members of BSHP will remember that at the History Session of the British Pharamceutical Conference held at Southampton in 1984 Sir James presented a lecture on "Tudor Surgery and the Mary Rose".

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Pharmacy in Manchester pre the Pharmaceutical Society

By K. David Richardson

This sketch illustrates the position of the second city in the country when the Pharmaceutical Society was formed in 1841. Manchester had its share of famous persons involved in medicine and pharmacy.

1. APOTHECARIES.

Records show that in the 1770's there were six apothecaries, four druggists and one "Chymist" in Manchester. One of the apothecaries was Thomas Henry of St. Ann's Square, the originator of Henry's magnesia, a popular patent medicine until this century.[1]

In 1772 John Cook grocer & druggist was at Front Salford, but in 1773 he had removed to 12, Market Place where he was described as a druggist and seedsman. In 1778 the business was carried on by Ann Cook, presumably his widow, and after her death the business was sold. After many changes, including a move to 51, London Rd. the business was purchased c1860 by Thomas Kerfoot, whose manufacturing interests can be traced back to 1767.

c1780 at the bottom of Smithy Door (off Market St.) was Mr Brerton, druggist.

In 1788 George Brown made pills and plasters and dispensed potions in an old black and white shop next door but one to the corner of St. Mary's Gate. Later Thomas Staines took over and in post 1813 took in as a partner his assistant John Mottershead. Later the firm became Mottershead & Brown and c1837 Mr. Mottershead who never married, took in his nephew Thomas Roberts as partner who eventually succeeded to the business and in about 1848 moved his business next door. For nearly 30 years Mottershead & Co's shop at the corner of Market Place and St. Mary's Gate was a well known establishment. Mr Roberts was also principal partner in the manufacturing chemists Robert Dale & Co. and proprietor of Parr's Life Pills and Old Moore's Almanack. Mr Robert sold the shop business to Messrs. Standon Paine & F. Baden Benger. The late Dr (afterwards Sir) William Roberts commence a series of experiments with pepsin and persuaded Messrs. Paine and Benger to turn their attention to the matter. The outcome was a range of preparations bearing the name of Benger, the best known being Bengers Food.

At 10, Market St. in 1790 was Daniel Lynch, Chemist & Druggist, later Lynch & Bateman. In the early 1990's the business moved to Brown St. and later Mr Lynch was connected with the Infirmary.

John Atkinson, druggist, was in business in St. Mary's Gate. About 1793 he commenced manufacture of an Infants Preservative which in later years he disposed of to Mr Barket his nephew. In 1843 in consequence of Royal patronage the name was changed to Atkinson & Barker's Royal Infants Preservative, a product still marketed and well known.

Another Market St. site had a succession of proprietors, George Buxton Brown, William Wilson (early 1800's), John Stocks, William Dentith and in the early 1830's Horatio Miller. The latter, a man of social and literary tastes had batchelor rooms which became the resort of actors and authors. He later became a partner in a brewing concern in Salford. Several apprentices learnt their trade in this shop, one being the son of the Rev. Dr Warren who entered a firm of London merchants. Another was Henry Blaines who went to the Cape of Good Hope where he founded a business and became a member of the Upper House of Legislature at the Cape. Yet another apprentice was J.T. Slugg who was for many years in business in Stretford Rd. and was somewhat of an antiquary.

One of the few firms which has century long connections with Market St. was James Woolley & Sons. &. Co. Ltd. In 1796 R.H. Hargreaves commenced business as a druggist and drysalter, oil dealer and colour manufacturer. For nearly 50 years he continued to be the proprietor, living part of the time on the premises. In 1844 the business was purchased by James Woolley, who after serving an apprenticeship with Samuel Dean, a chemist at 4, Piccadilly, Manchester, had commenced business in a shop in King St. He also opened another shop at 30, Great Ducie St. Having secured the Market St. Business, he proceeded to develop and extend it and in course of time adding a second shop. The wholesale business went to Victoria Bridge warehouse in the early 1900's.

A resident of Withy Grove was a druggist named Mellor who was usually called 'Old Doctor Mellor' as in the early volunteer days of the 1990's he had the privilege of measuring and examining all the recruits enlisted in the town. As he received a fee for each of the thousands he so examined he was envied by his less fortunate colleagues.

In the early 1800's Thomas De Quincey was at Manchester Grammer School where he became ill with liver trouble and profound melancholy. For medical advice he chose an apothecary for the sake of cheapness. De Quincey claimed that three doses of calomel or blue pill would have cured him in a week, however his apothecary prescribed a horrid mixture which must have suggested itself to him when prescribing for a tiger. After taking two doses he decided against instructions on the label vox. Repetatur haustus.

J.W. Gaultier, the druggist son of a Weslyan minister, commenced business c1810 in a small shop on the corner of Tib St. and Market Stead Lane. Among his apprentices was one called Whitlaw, who became the personal friend of Jewsbury his neighbour, and in the course of time the pair commenced business as chemists and druggists at one of the shops in Egyptian Buildings. In addition they

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commenced the making of effervescing beverages.

Samuel Lessey, the son of another Weslyan minister, carried on business three doors away from Booth St. for a number of years. One of his apprentices, William Scott Brown, in later years joined Henry Jewsbury, founding thereby the firm of Jewsbury & Brown. A copy of Manchester Public Library's photograph of the shop is in W.A. Jackson's book "The Victorian Chemist & Druggist".

At the end of Withy Grove was Sugar Lane and one tenant in 1838 was Nicholas Varley, Chemist. He was a relation of James Varley, one time drysalter and inventor of a process for making Chloride of Lime.

c1850 there were seven chemists shops in Oldham Rd.

2. ALLIED RETAILERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

The Curate of St. John's Church, Deansgate in 1793 was Rev. William Cowherd. In 1800 he founded a faith known as Bible Christians and built Christ Church, King St., Salford. He also practised bleeding and tooth-drawing.

In 1797 the description of a Post Office included "medicine vendor".

The Manchester Magazine" No. 623 of Tuesday 19th January 1747/8 contained an advert for Daffy's Elixir, (one of the most important products of William Dicey, a book publisher and patentee and maker of medicines in Northampton), Doctor Anderson Sick Pills, Chymical Drops – "a speedy cure for coughs and colds and asthma", Doctor Godfrey's Cordial for Children, Doctor Bateman's Drops, Staughton's Elixir, Spirits of Scurvy Grass, Flowers of Mustard in 3d. bottles and Oil of Mustard.

Early in the 1830's Elijah Dixon was a shopkeeper carrying on business at 5, Dixon St., St Ancoats. Later he was in partnership with David Ridgway under the style of Dixon & Ridgway, pill box and syringe manufacturers, and plaster spreaders, at New Islington.

A resident in Bond St. c1837 by the name of Parry, carried on the occupation of cupper. At this time blood-letting was resorted to on every occasion available eg. when a person fainted from exhaustion, had a fever or inflammation. Announcements could be seen in cottage windows in Ancoats "bleeding with leeches". The Manchester Directory advertised William Entwhistle, "Cupper, Bleeder and Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Leeches."

T. Roberts c1840 was a druggist who made Old Parr's Life Pills.

At that time Jacob Francks carried on business at 19, Withy Grove and at 25, Mary's Gate as an optician and clothes dealer. His earlier place of business was 4, Millers Lane and his business card read "J. Francks, optician, 4, Millers Lane, makes or repairs all kinds of optic glasses, telescopes, microscopes, and reading glasses, spectacles, likewise excellent tooth powder. Also excellent eye water. Excellent rhubarb. Umbrellas made and neatly mended. Mr Francks was for 11 years a prisoner with the savages in America. At the time he made his escape from them he was chief of one of their tribes. This plate was engraved by himself."

In the mid 1800's George Condy, barrister, lived in York St. His son in later years was the manufacturer of Condy's Fluid.

Dr Thomas Percival the medical writer in 1783 recommended the use of cod liver oil, under the name of oleum jecoris aselli, for rheumatism. However it was not until a Dr John Hufges Bennett wrote his 'Treatise' in 1841, followed by that of Dr Thompson in 1847, suggesting its value in the treatment of phthisis, that there was any serious demand for the oil. Once started, and its use for wasting diseases and rickets established, the oil was provided by many pharmaceutical firms. The oil was first included in the British Pharmacopoea in 1867.

In the late 19th century Calvert and Lowe were extracting carbolic acid from coal tar in Manchester and preparing Calvert's Carbolic Toothpowder, and Calvert's Carbolic Soap, both of which became famous national products.[1]

3. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

Dr. Charles White lived in Market St. in 1772. With Joseph Bancroft he founded the Manchester Infirmary. He was also known in connection with the mummified remains of Hannah (Ann) Beswick of Birchin Bower, Hollinwood who had died at Chetwood Old Hall in 1758. She was embalmed by her medical man, Dr. White, the body being kept by him at Priory, Sale. After his death it passed into the possession of Dr. Ollier and when Peter Street Museum was formed it was placed there until in 1868 it was buried in Harpurhey cemetry. In the days when movements of reformers were causing the police authorities much unnecessary worry, Dr. White's house was used for a time as a barracks for foot soldiers.

Arthur W. Dumville (born 1812), the son of Salford Waterworks solicitor, after attending Grammar School was placed with Thomas Fawsington whose consulting rooms were at the corner of Lever St. Having duly qualified Mr. Dumville commenced practice. He was a member of the consulting staff of the Infirmary and later lecturer. To considerable professional skill was added a disposition and an urbanity of manner, and he became one of the most successful and popular surgeons in the City.

A surgeon called Holroyd practised at 66, Bridge St. On the evening of Dec. 16th. he, with his fiancé Lavinia Robinson visited her sister. The couple went out for a walk and although expected did not return. Holroyd claimed they had a row on their walk but parted at her sister's door. On 7th Feb. 1814 her body was found on a sand bank after the ice had melted. After a medical examination the inquest returned an open verdict. Holroyd left the town and on March

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18th. 1814 the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* announced that Dr. Holroyd had committed suicide by poisoning after endeavouring to drown himself in the canal at Stafford.

At 9, Bridge St. c1814 an old fashioned double-fronted house, resided for many years one of Manchester's most famous surgeons, Joseph Jordan. He practised in his native city until he was 87 years of age. He was later involved in teaching and also in surgery at the Infirmary.

A surgeon at Stretford, George Greaves, died of blood poisoning after pricking his finger during an operation.

James Braid MRCS a native of Fifeshire, settled in Manchester about 1830 and rapidly became distinguished for his skills in dealing with some of the more difficult and dangerous diseases. In 1841 he studied in-depth animal magnetism. He discovered hypnotism as a distinct branch of science and named it neuro-hypnotism. His most important book was 'Neurology, or the Rationale or Nervous Sleep Considered in relation to Animal Magnetism".

In 1832 Mr. E. Lacy was a medical practitioner. A John Doherty was found guilty at Lancaster Assizes on Aug. 29th. 1832 of a libel in that he stated that a body had been stolen from a graveyard and conveyed to the dissecting room of Mr. Lacy.

Dr. Grindrod who lived at 5, Great Ancoats St. was the first medical man to join the teetotal movement (although his neighbours were members of the trade). He took the pledge in 1833 at 23 years of age and spoke and lectured on the new movement. In 1836 at a temperance meeting in Oldham Rd., the room gave way and two persons were killed and over 60 were injured who were attended by Dr. Grindrod. He converted Bishop Stanley and John Cassell, the founder of the publishing firm. He died in 1883 in his 73rd. year.

Daniel Noble MD commenced practice in 1834 and his professional career lasted over half a century, rendering invaluable service to the City during the typhus epidemic of 1847. One of his principal literary efforts was a book dealing with the outbreak. His other works dealt with the human brain, one being devoted to its physiology and another showing the relation of the mind with the brain and nervous system.

In Faulkner St. c1836 lived Dr. Edmund Lyon and Dr. Davenport Hume, Physicians, Reuben Perry and J.C. Gordon, Surgeons and Dr. John Dalton.

In Piccadilly in the early 1840's from Lever St. to Lees St. were to be found 14 surgeons and physicians and in the adjoining streets a further 11. Several were leading members of their profession.

Mr Edwards Meacham who had been in the army came to Manchester c1846 as labour master of the Chorlton Union workhouse. His contact with the poor led him to commence the study of medicine, ultimately taking his degree as a surgeon. In 1864 he was appointed medical officer for the St. George's district by the Manchester Board of Guardians. Taking up his residence in Red Bank he commenced the Red Bank Medical Mission.

4. MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND THEIR STAFF

Joseph Jordan's Medical School.

One of Manchester's most famous surgeons was Joseph Jordan born on March 3rd. 1787 in Water St. He received much of his early training under William Simmons, one of the members of the Infirmary surgical staff and completed it at Edinburgh under Sir Charles Bell and Dr. Munro. He was the founder of medical schools in the provinces and as early as 1812 he gave courses of lectures on anatomy with demonstrations and dissections, to classes of medical students.

In October 1815 he opened rooms for the study of anatomy in Back Queen St., but a year later he secured more convenient premises at No. 4 Bridge St. This was an old-fashioned double fronted house that stood near to Deansgate.

He was the first provincial lecturer whose certificates were accepted and recognised by the examining bodies in London, the Apothecaries accepting them in 1817 and the College of Surgeons in 1821.

In 1825 he built a medical school in Mount St. at his own expense and in addition to a lecture hall, provided it with one of the most commodious and best fitted dissecting rooms in England, and transferred to it his valuable museum containing nearly 4000 anatomical specimens. At his new school he taught anatomy, surgery, medicine, chemistry etc. Here much valuable work was done in the face of much opposition from the Pine St. school and the Infirmary authorities, until 1834 when it closed. The anatomical collection was then placed in the Manchester Royal School of Medicine.

For twenty year Joseph Jordan continued to lecture and when retiring he was entertained to a public dinner which was attended by almost every medical man of repute in England, and was presented with a valuable service of plate. As a surgeon he made several inventions of importance in the treatment of fractures. He died on March 31st. 1873.

The Manchester Royal School of Medicine and Surgery.

The medical school was the forerunner of Owens College Medical School (later Manchester University Medical School) was founded by Thomas Turner FRCS. a well known surgeon, in 1824. It commenced in a humble fashion in Pine St. John Dalton delivered lectures in pharmaceutial chemistry in 1824. At that time there was agitation by provincial medical colleges for recognition but the College of Surgeons in London refused to admit, for the purpose of qualification, certificates of attendance at provincial lectures of anatomy. Manchester led the way in the demand for the removal of such injusties, but it was not until 1828, after evidence given before a Committee of the House of Commons that the College could be induced to adopt a more liberal policy

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resulting in the acceptance of the certificate of the Manchester school.

In addition to John Dalton the teaching staff consisted of Thomas Turner, J.L. Bardsley, J.A. Ransome, Kinder Wood, W. Thompson, H. Ollier and R.F. Hunt. Instruction was also given in subjects allied to medicine.

In 1832 the school was enlarged and in 1836 in consideration of its excellent equipment and of it being "the first fully equipped school of medicine and surgery established in the provinces", it was permitted by William IV to attach the prefix 'Royal' and became the 'Manchester Royal School of Medicine and Surgery'.

The school has always had a strong teaching staff in those days and included was the branch surgeons and physicians in the district. Perhaps anatomy was the branch most fortunate in its teachers and demonstrators. Following Mr Turner was Edward Lund, who in later year along with Mr. Southam, became joint professors in Owens College.

In 1858 the Chatman St. School was amalgamated with the Royal School. This had opened in 1850 as had another school in the early 1840's in Marsden St. The latter existing for only six years.

5. HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS.

The Royal Infirmary.

Garden St., Shudehill was the site of the first Infirmary which was the result of much work by Joseph Bancroft. He offered to defray all the expenses of the Infirmary for one year provided the respected and venerable surgeon Charles White would give his assistance in his professional capacity. In April 1752 a subscription was commenced to raise money for a public infirmary. A house was rented and furnished and opened for the relief of out-patients on June 24th. 1752. The house contained 12 beds and other conveniences and was known as the Manchester Infirmary. A month later the first in-patients were admitted and in the course of the first year 75 in-patients and 249 out-patients were treated. During that first year donations and legacies to the value of £361-12-0 were received and the subscription list amounted to £488-0-6.

In 1753 it was decided to errect a building to take 40 patients. An appeal for further financial support was made and in 1754 a piece of land was purchased from Sir Oswald Mosley, it was in the open country (later known as Piccadilly). The Mosley family donated the land in front of the Infirmary to be devoted to the making of a pond with a walk round it. The first stone was laid on May 20th. 1754 and it was opened the following year. The total cost of the building and furniture being £4,000. It consisted of a central block nine windows long, with two small wings. It was in 1757 that the first rudiments of the clinical or hospital system of teaching appeared, apprentices being accepted for periods varying from 2 to 7 years.

In 1780 a clock surmounted by a turret and wind vane were added at a cost of £142 and in 1781 additional land was obtained.

A scheme was drawn up whereby subscribers of 20 guineas should become trustees for life.

Extension followed extension every few years, the most important being in 1792 when a dispensary was added.

In the early 1800's Daniel Lynch was appointed one of the visiting apothecaries in connection with the Infirmary and being in business prior to the Act of 1815, he was allowed to visit patients. He attained the position of Deputy Grand Master of the Masons of the Manchester District before he died in 1836 aged 69.

"Royal" was added to the title when William IV became a patron.

Between 1847 and 1853 further extensions were built and in 1866 the "House of Recovery" fever hospital became amalgamated to the Infirmary until a new infectious diseases hospital was built in Monsall.

In 1866 a convalescent hospital at Cheadle connected with the Infirmary was founded by Robert Barnes who purchased land and left money for the erection of the hospital.

In 1907 the Infirmary had 300 beds and was moved to its present site a year later, doubling the accommodation.

The Lunatic Asylum.

On a portion of the Piccadilly Infirmary site in 1765 was erected a lunatic asylum. Prior to at date only two *public* asylums were to be found, one in London and one in the provinces. The unfortunate insane were almost entirely left to private enterprise, private mad houses flourishing in most parts of the country.

The accomodation at Piccadilly comprised four cells or wards, together with rooms for the governor, the total cost was £1,500. Successive entensions were made in 1772, 1780 and 1788 resulting in accommodation for 90 more patients. In 1797 the governors were empowered by Act of Parliament to removed the Asylum to a more suitable site. In November 1847 the foundation stone was laid in Cheadle for the Manchester Royal Lunatic Asylum.

Public Baths.

Another building on the Infirmary site was the Public Baths. In 1804 hot, tepid, vapour and cold baths were available and later a sulphurous fumigating bath was added. Leeching and cupping were performed.

Lying-in Hospital

Down Stanley St. and immediately behind the prison in May 1790, the Lying-in Hospital was instituted. After four moves and c1900 it was in Gloucester St. its name having in the meantime been changed to St. Mary's Hospital.

Fever Hospital.

In 1796 several cottages in Portland St. were purchased for the reception of fever patients. It was so successful that an extension was soon decided upon. A subscription list opened, by which over £5,000 was raised. This enabled a large brick building to be

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erected in Aytoun St., 21 wards containing accommodation for 100 patients were provided, scarlet fever patients being isolated from the other occupants of the building. It was opened in 1804 and called "The House of Recovery" and for more than half a century it was conducted as an independant institution.

The Eye Institution.

This was established in Faulkner St. in 1814. Some years later it was removed to Princess St. and later to Oxford St.

Manchester Children's Hospital.

Founded in 1829 and claims the distinction of being the oldest general hospital for children in the British Isles. One of the several benevolent men who aided the foundation of the hospital in Ridgefield was Daniel Grant, one of Charles Dicken's Cheeryble Brothers.

It was not until 1852, in a building in North Parade, that beds were provided for patients. The hospital grew steadily and in 1873 moved to new buildings on a "bright, airy hillside" at Pendlebury, a village five miles west of the City. The architects buildings of that period of wide, single storied buildings, with ample lawns and gardens between the wards, has never been improved upon. Additions have been made from time to time such as an outpatients department, additional wards and a modern nurses home. In 1923 the distinction of "Royal" was conferred on the hospital by the King.

Red Bank Medical Mission.

As mentioned Mr. Edward Meacham in 1864 was appointed Medical Officer for the St. George's District by the Manchester Board of Guardians. Taking up his residence in Red Bank he commenced the Red Bank Medical Mission and Dispensary. For 30 years he was daily in attendance at the Mission rooms, ministering alike to the bodies and souls of his poor neighbours. His concern for the children was deep seated, and a large proportion of his salary, never a big one, went to help them. After serving as Medical Officer for 30 years he was pensioned off with £100 per annum, but although his health was poor he stayed amongst the poor of Red Bank. He died on September 18th. 1897 aged 74. The Mission was afterwards taken over by the managers of the Charter St. Ragged School.

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T.N.R. Morson and his Scientific Friends

By A.F.P. Morson

Since all these friends lived near to one another, they had much to talk about during the Chartist Rising. In 1848 the Chartists held a demonstration in Russell Square. The local people were so concerned that shops and houses were boarded up and they stayed indoors. The staff at the British Museum were made special constables, troops joined them and all of them stayed inside the Museum ready with rifles and well-stocked with food. Fortunately, Fergus O'Connor persuaded the Chartists to disperse so the episode was marked by noise and threats and no damage was done. The passing of the Chartist movement paved the way for that eminently respectable era when Palmerston, Disraeli and Gladstone were in power; I do not doubt that the residents of Bloomsbury were pleased.

I must not overlook that there were many in the P.S.G.B. who were also frequent visitors to Morson's house. Many visits were made by his friend Jacob Bell, both in London and to Hornsey where Morson had a factory and a house with garden sloping gently to the south and filled with roses, herbaceous plants, several greenhouses, fruit, vegetables, and as large a space given to growing herbs and plants for his business. The Hanbury's, father and son, were visitors as well as customers; men like Savory, Deane, Ince, Squire, Sandford and Hyde Hills were included in the circle and from further afield Macfarlan and Abraham.

With such an extensive contact among eminent and powerful people in the scientific world, the question of Morson not achieving a Fellowship of the Royal Society has been asked. There are no records to help, all we can do is speculate.

One circumstance however, may be important. Until 1847 the Royal Society had rather ill-defined rules and accepted proposals at any time and so it had a largish minority of members whose scientific attributes were minimal, however important, rich or influential in other spheres. The reputation of the Society was affected and the Council decided that only men of proven scientific attainment could be considered by a Council committee which would meet annually.

Morson certainly had influential friends who could have proposed him for membership. Perhaps they approached him and were turned down. He may have felt that the R.S.A., R.I. the P.S.G.B., and later the Linnaean were enough. He did not join the Ray Society nor the short-lived Medico-Botanical or even

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the Chemical Society, though he was a member of the Cavendish also short-lived.

It is unlikely that he expressed political views which had upset senior FRS's, even though he was critical of the government over, for instance, the Opium War; and had a number of friends like Gray, who were radicals.

Morson was not an academic, wrote few papers and none of purely scientific originality; he was a practical man of business and chemical production. He was known for the purity of his chemicals. I recently found a few samples, one of which was later exhibited in the late 19th Century and probably at one of the exhibitions in the 1860's. It passes the current standard as an analytical reagent. The firm which first started marketing such pure chemicals as a part of their business was Hopkin and Williams, both of whom were trained by Morson. He was well-known for a passionate interest in high professional standards which he himself practised; to encourage this in others he maintained a strong interest in education. Witness for this comes from his very long stint on the P.S.G.B's Board of Examiners. To repeat what he said in 1849; "it is an onerous and time-consuming duty; but it exerts a very important influence on the character of the Society." He was on the Board of Examiners for longer than he was on the Council.

Morson concerned himself with all aspects of his profession while concentrating his business on the production of fine chemicals. But his wider scientific interests caused him to indulge in what one might call his hobby-sciences; geology, botany and zoology. His interst in zoology has produced one pleasant story. Morson's habit was to walk across Southampton Row and over to the north side of Bloomsbury Square to reach the Society's premises. It was almost a daily occurrence and quite informal; just to see how things were and pass the time of day with the staff and any members he knew, which was the majority. On one such occasion he was greeted on the pavement by a friend who lived very locally and so they stood there in conversation. It was in cool weather and Morson was wearing a light overcoat. Imagine his friend's surprise when, through the fabric of Morson's coat appeared the hand and then the head of his pet marmoset.

Morson was known to the leading chemists in France and Germany during the 1820's. By the end of the next decade he had earned his reputation as a large-scale manufacturer of medicinal chemicals. He was on intimate terms with the leading scientists in Britain, especially those in chemistry, medicine and botany. He was much concerned with the proper standards that should be achieved in supplying the public with their medicines. He had an experience in Paris of how the French, leaders at this period, had organised themselves. He could speak with intimate knowledge of what was happening in Europe and Britain, because of this. As his friend Bennett wrote in his obituary of Morson: "Cap, Liebig, Rose and Mitscherlich were all guests at his house. He formed acquaintances which ripened into friendship with the greatest chemists and philosophers of the age." It was fitting, therefore, that he should be at the forefront of those concerned with the formation of a professional body to raise the comparatively low standards of pharmacy in Britain.

He was a European figure, who used all his, and his friends' expertise, for the benefit of the Pharmaceutical Society in many different fields. It would be fascinating to know if he felt that all their early aspirations had been fulfilled.

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